

Katyushas land near Israeli border

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Two Katyusha rockets apparently fired at an Israeli border settlement from South Lebanon Friday fell in an open field and caused no casualties or damage, Israel Radio said. A similar attack was made in the same region on June 14 and Israeli troops were unable to find the launcher after a search of the rugged area near the South Lebanese village of Adaisch. Israeli soldiers were again scouring the area Friday, the radio said. Defence Minister Moshe Arens has said that six Katyusha rockets have landed inside Israel since troops invaded Lebanon two years ago. Before the last incident 19 had landed inside Lebanon close to the Israeli border according to military sources.

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جوردان تايمز جازيتا عربية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Happy 'Eid

The Jordan Times will not be published on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday due to the 'Eid al-Fitr holidays. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Wednesday, July 4. The Jordan Times wishes its readers a happy 'Eid holidays.

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Beirut Italian hospital destroyed

BEIRUT (AP) — A tent hospital, built by the Italian contingent of the Multi-National Force and turned over earlier this year to the people of Lebanon, was set afire by an arsonist and burned to the ground, state radio said Friday. The radio said that the fire on Thursday destroyed all five of the hospital tents and all of the equipment. An unidentified man set the blaze shortly after midday (1000 GMT) and fled, according to witnesses quoted by the state radio. Hospital crews had left for the day, the radios said.

U.K., West ready for role in Gulf

BEIRUT (R) — Britain and its Western allies would intervene to defend Gulf states threatened by the Iran-Iraq war if they requested such help, a senior British official was quoted Friday as saying. Richard Luce, minister of state for foreign affairs, said in an interview with the Lebanese magazine An Nahar Arab and International that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had made it clear that, if diplomatic efforts to assure the security of the Gulf states failed, Britain would have to resort to other methods in consultation with its allies.

Soviets offer talks on space weapons

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union on Friday announced it was ready to begin talks with the United States this fall on banning anti-satellite weapons in space. An official Soviet government statement issued by the ocys agency TASS suggested the talks could be held in Vienna, if the United States and the Austrian government agreed, and begin in September.

Fire destroys Argentine tanker

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — An explosion and spectacular dockside fire destroyed the 20,000-ton state-owned oil tanker Perito Moreno, killing at least two crewmen and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of residents of a nearby Shantytown, officials said Friday. Under-Secretary of Maritime Transport Pedro Casado Blanco, summoned by President Raul Alfonsín to explain the origin of the blaze, visible 15 kilometres away, told reporters the fire started by "a workman lighting a blowtorch." Witnesses said the blaze began with a tremendous explosion aboard the tanker, which was unloading a cargo of crude oil from southern Argentine oil fields at a petroleum loading, storage and refinery area.

Israeli Labour maintains lead

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli Labour opposition holds a comfortable lead with 40.8 per cent support compared to 21.6 for the ruling right-wing Likud, according to an opinion poll published in the afternoon newspaper Hadashot Friday. The poll, conducted 10 days ago, found that 24 per cent did not know yet how they would vote in the July 23 general election.

Iraqis pound Iranian bases as president visits front

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi helicopter gunships Friday hit Iranian troop positions on the southern Gulf war front as President Saddam Hussein returned to Baghdad after a two-day inspection tour of his troops there.

A high command communiqué said the helicopter gunships scored "direct and effective hits" and returned safely to base. Iraqi artillery also pounded Iranian positions east of the southern Iraqi port of Basra, destroying three infantry emplacements, it added.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) meanwhile said the president inspected forward positions of the Third Army Corps on the southern front from Thursday and also visited Basra.

Iraqi commanders say Iran has some 200,000 troops massed on the southern front for a major offensive, which they have vowed Iraq will crush.

Iran accepts observers

Meanwhile, Iran said Friday it had agreed to allow United Nations observers to be stationed in Tehran, but leading clergyman attacked any suggestion Iran was softening its determination to continue the war against Iraq.

The national news agency IRNA confirmed Iran had overcome initial reluctance to accept

Saudis urge peace talks

The Saudi Arabian leadership called Friday on Iraq and Iran to submit to arbitration, respond to mediation and bring their 45-

month-old conflict to a decisive end.

Marking the commencement of the three-day 'Eid al-Fitr, Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan underlined the "supreme ideal of peace" in Islam.

Alluding to the Iran-Iraq war and the recent dogfight in which Saudi jetfighters shot down an Iranian warplane over Saudi waters, Prince Sultan said "events proved that we live in a world which respects nothing but the right that is supported by might."

"This world gives peace only to those capable of wresting it from the claws of injustice and aggression," said Prince Sultan in a statement broadcast by the state-run radio.

Crown Prince Abdullah lamented "this bloodletting of our brethren in Iraq and Iran, where confusion and pain reign and the two countries turning into a farm of imported weapons from all directions."

"I hereby sincerely call for a decisive end to this war, through submission to a just and honest mediation," said Crown Prince Abdullah in a statement distributed by the Saudi Press Agency.

King Fahd also issued an 'Eid statement, emphasising peace and fraternity but avoiding direct allusion to the Gulf belligerents.

Iraq warns of retaliation against shipping attacks, page 2

15 killed in Israeli raid of N. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A storm of festive gunfire erupted in west Beirut early Friday while police put the final casualty toll of Israeli air and sea attacks on a north Lebanon island at 15 killed and 23 wounded. Eleven others were missing and presumed drowned.

Local militiamen fired their machine guns to celebrate a pre-dawn announcement by Lebanon's Sunni Muslim grand mufti, Sheikh Hassan Khaled, that the Holy Month of Ramadan was over.

The sudden outburst, which lasted more than an hour, jolted thousands of sleeping residents in Beirut's mainly Muslim and predominantly Christian sectors alike. But police said there were no casualties in the shooting, mostly into the air, to mark the first day of the 'Eid al-Fitr festival.

Some radio stations said sporadic exchanges of rocket-propelled grenades across the capital's demarcation "green line" interspersed with the jubilant gunfire in west Beirut. There was no police confirmation of the report, however.

Another police statement said rescuers ended operations on "Palm Island" off the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli and in nearby waters. The island was attacked by Israeli jets and gunboats in the past two days.

The police did not say whether the final casualty count included an Israeli captive and three Palestinian fighters that one Palestinian commando group said were killed in the Israeli raids.

The Israeli military command in

Tel Aviv said Friday it could not confirm the death of the Israeli prisoner. A terse communiqué said: "We have no information that the matter is true from any other source, but we are continuing our checks."

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine announced in Damascus Thursday that an Israeli prisoner identified as First Sgt. Samir Mahmoud was killed on Palm Island along with three DFLP guards during the Israeli attacks (See page 2).

Sgt. Mahmoud was an Israeli Druze believed captured in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley last April. He was one of four Israelis held by PLO factions that were excluded from Thursday's swap of more than 300 war prisoners between Syria and Israel.

On Thursday, Israeli troops and armoured vehicles stormed the southern Shiite Muslim village of Maarakah, closing all access roads and arresting about 50 civilians, witnesses quoted by Reuters said.

In the village of Aqanit, five kilometres south of Sidon, an Israeli helicopter opened fire and killed a farmer after the aircraft struck a kite flown by children nearby, security sources said.

Witnesses in Maarakah, 10 kilometres east of Tyre, said Israeli troops blindfolded and handcuffed 50 residents before taking them away in three trucks.

The detentions came as Israel announced the release of 40 Shi'ites from Ansar prison camp south of Sidon in a conciliatory gesture to South Lebanon's mainly Shi'ite population.

Israelis seize ship off Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — An Israeli gunboat intercepted a Cypriot passenger ship as it approached the west Beirut shore Friday morning and diverted it to the Israeli port of Haifa, the ship's agents told Reuters.

The ship, Alisur Blanco, was detained at Haifa throughout the day after the gunboat intercepted it nine kilometres offshore at 5:15 a.m. (0215 GMT), the agents said.

The ship was travelling from Larnaca, Cyprus, to west Beirut and carried 63 passengers and 21 crewmen, who were reported safe after receiving thorough identity checks by Israeli security forces in Haifa.

The ship's captain had radioed to Beirut saying the vessel was being diverted, but the Israelis forbade him to give any additional information, the agents said.

The Alisur Blanco is one of two passenger ships that operate daily from a makeshift port in west Beirut.

Lebanese Minister of State for South Lebanon Nabih Berrri was contacted to help secure the ship's release, the agents said. Another agent in Larnaca said United Nations representatives and embassies in the region had also been asked to intervene.

A Cypriot government spokesman said earlier he did not know the circumstances of the incident and could not say if Cyprus would be protesting to Israel over the incident.

Syria, Israel exchange PoWs

QUNEITRA, Golan Heights (R) — Syria and Israel Thursday exchanged prisoners-of-war captured in Lebanon in the first such swap between the two sides in 10 years.

The exchange of six Israelis and 291 Syrian military personnel was supervised by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC). The Israeli prisoners included three military personnel and three others captured by Syrian forces north of Beirut on May 1.

Israel claimed at the time the men were "officials" of the Israeli "liaison office" north of Beirut, who had been on a "sightseeing trip."

Israel also released 21 Syrian citizens from the Golan Heights, held for resisting Israeli occupation.

Syria also handed back the bodies of five Israeli soldiers, including a pilot, while Israel returned the bodies of 72 Syrian military personnel.

The exchange operation took place at an area set up by the ICRC in the buffer zone separating Syrian and Israeli forces. It started with the five Israeli bodies, moved from an advanced Syrian position aboard five vehicles belonging to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Forces (UNDOF), while other UNDOF vehicles moved from the Israeli side carrying 72 coffins with bodies of the Syrian military personnel.

This was followed by an exchange of prisoners. The six Israelis were taken in five separate Red Cross cars, while several buses moved from the Israeli side carrying the Syrians.

Cheers roared out on both sides of the front lines as the prisoners disembarked.

Major-General Adnan Tayyara, Syria's chief representative

on the Syrian-Israeli Armistice Committee, told reporters the exchange was for "humanitarian reasons" and followed several months of negotiations with ICRC.

Asked whether he would consider it a step towards peace with Israel, Gen. Tayyara, who is also a liaison officer with UNDOF, said: "I do not think so because Israel does not want a genuine peace."

The freed Syrians were given a warm official welcome at Quneitra, with Syrian Defence Minister Major-General Mustafa Tlas taking part. He gave the Syrian dead a military salute as a military band played.

The Israeli prisoners told reporters just before they left that the Syrians treated them well.

Officer disputes death of Israeli soldier; Arens denies election influenced prisoner swap, page 2



His Majesty King Hussein, His Highness Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat and a large gathering of worshippers perform the Friday prayers at the University of Jordan Mosque (Petra photo)

King prays at University Mosque

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by a large number of worshippers, Friday performed prayers at the University of Jordan Mosque. The King listened to the Friday sermon delivered by the dean of the Faculty of Shari'at (Islamic law) at the University of Jordan, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, in which he called for deep understanding of the tolerant principles of the Islamic religion and for adhering to the drive of the Prophet Mohammad

which is based on dialogue and sympathy, staying away from extremism.

Dr. Khayyat also praised King Hussein's Arab and Islamic stands.

Attending the prayers with the King were, His Highness Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces

Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh, University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, Mayor of Amman Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and a number of civil and military officials.

The King also received congratulations from worshippers on his performing the Umra pilgrimage last week.

France offers role in Mideast peace efforts

By Hassan Hamad
Special to the Jordan Times

PARIS — France is concerned with supporting efforts for establishing peace in the Middle East and will be willing to take part in any effort towards achieving that goal, according to President Francois Mitterrand's adviser on foreign affairs.

He said that any solution to the Middle East issue should guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the security of all states in the region.

Addressing a delegation of Jordanian journalists on a visit to France, the adviser said that the French president was looking forward to his visit to Jordan July 9-11 and talks with His Majesty King Hussein to discuss developments in the region and to hear Jordanian views about its problems.

The French official paid tribute to King Hussein's leadership and stressed the importance of Jordan's role as a stabilising factor in the region, which he said helps the cause of peace.

The French president's visit to Jordan reflects France's conviction of Jordan's important role, the adviser said.

During the president's visit he will discuss with King Hussein Franco-Jordanian economic co-operation, he added.

He said France and other members of the European Community should extend support to Jordan's development projects, now that

the community's financial problems are over. He said the future will witness a significant contribution on the part of the community towards Jordan's development plans.

In reply to a question, he said that France has no objection to selling weapons to Jordan which needs them for its own defence. The French official also criticised

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Iran for pursuing the war with Iraq and voiced hope that the United States will not be involved in the Gulf war.

Court overturns ban on Arab-Jewish party, Kach

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli supreme court overturned a ban on two political parties Thursday, clearing the way for an Arab-Jewish party and the extremist Kach party to run in the July 23 general election.

The five-judge court unanimously ruled that there was no reason to ban the parties, disqualified last week by a parliamentary election committee.

The two parties, in their appeal to the supreme court, argued that the election committee was a political body and therefore had no right to ban them.

Judge Meir Shengor said the court was not taking a stand on whether the committee could bar parties, but saw no reason to prevent Kach or the Arab-Jewish Progressive List from seeking election.

Kach, which is headed by former Jewish Defence League leader Rabbi Meir Kahane, advocates forcefully evicting Arabs from Israel and the occupied territories.

The Arab-Jewish Progressive List for Peace favours direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The election committee disqualified Kach on the grounds that it supported acts of "terror" and negated the "fundamental basis of democracy in Israel."

It said the Progressive List for Peace had "subversive principles," and central figures in the party identified with "enemies of the state." The party is headed by an Arab lawyer.

Iranian hijackers in Iraq, say they support Bakhtiar

BAGHDAD (R) — Two hijackers of an Iranian airliner arrived here Wednesday night and one said they were supporters of former Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar.

The two men flew from Cairo, where they had forced the Iran Air Boeing 727 to land 24 hours earlier.

They flew in on an Iraqi Airways Jumbo jet and once talked to reporters at a press conference at Baghdad airport.

The man, who gave his name as Mohammad Reza Aheri, 31, said he was a former lieutenant in the Iranian gendarmerie who opposed the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and had worked underground for four years.

"We used one pistol and one knife to take over the plane," he said, adding that "70 per cent of

the passengers blessed our action and prayed for us."

Mr. Aheri said the men had asked Egypt, France and Iraq for political asylum but only Baghdad had granted the request.

Mr. Aheri said he and his colleague were members of a movement supporting former Iranian Prime Minister Bakhtiar, now in exile.

He said Mr. Bakhtiar had no knowledge of the operation and his movement did not generally condone "terrorist actions." But he said desperation had forced them to "take this path of the resistance of the Iranian resistance."

The Iranian airliner was hijacked on Tuesday while on a domestic flight from Tehran to Bushhr port carrying 142 passengers.

Jackson: U.S. proposing dates for talks with Cuba

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Friday that the Reagan administration has proposed beginning talks with the Castro government next month aimed at the possible return to Cuba of several thousand former prison inmates and mental patients who came to the United States as part of the Mariel boatlift in 1980.

Mr. Jackson also said he was disappointed that Mr. Reagan will not meet with him to discuss his trip that brought 48 American and Cuban prisoners from Cuba.

Mr. Jackson announced to reporters after a 75-minute meeting at the State Department that the administration — which has sought talks with the Castro government on the issue — has proposed two days in July for beginning the discussions.

"I hope President Fidel Castro responds to these dates and will do so immediately," he said.

Mr. Jackson, a contender for the Democratic Party's candidacy

in the forthcoming U.S. presidential elections, flew back to the U.S. after a Central American tour. He was accompanied by 22 American and 26 Cuban prisoners released by Mr. Castro as a goodwill gesture.

In Havana, Mr. Castro told reporters: "I felt we had to make a gesture of a positive nature. We are not asking for anything in return."

Mr. Jackson said Mr. Castro, who President Reagan has accused of helping arm leftist guerrillas in Central America, was willing to resume diplomatic relations with the United States.

"If Mr. Castro is willing to change his stripes, then of course I think we would welcome that," U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Thursday. "But I don't see any evidence in this that he is prepared to do so."

Mr. Jackson, the freed Cuban political prisoners and the American prisoners — many of whom had been held on drug trafficking

charges — landed at Dulles International Airport in two planes shortly before midnight.

Some of the Americans were taken into custody by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents on criminal arrest warrants.

But all were welcomed at the airport by a crowd of Jackson political supporters who sang "Jesse Jackson came to bring the prisoners back home" to the tune of Swing Low Sweet Chariot.

It was an emotional scene with many relatives of the released on hand to welcome them home.

Mr. Jackson, who claims to have accomplished more in his tour than any government emissary has in Central America, told reporters: "I was a success because I tried."

Earlier Thursday, Mr. Jackson disavowed a supporter's reported anti-semitic slurs which have stirred a furor in the United States.

Referring to statements on Jews and Israel made recently by his longtime ally Louis Farrakhan,

head of a Chicago-based black Muslim sect, Mr. Jackson said in a statement:

"I refer specifically to his comments describing the creation of Israel as an 'outlaw act' and his assertion that nations that helped found and now support Israel are 'criminals' in the sight of Almighty God."

"I find such statements or comments to be reprehensible and morally indefensible. I disavow such comments and thoughts."

Mr. Jackson did not refer, however, to Mr. Farrakhan's even more controversial alleged statement that Judaism was "a gutter religion," and aides said that omission was deliberate.

The U.S. Senator Thursday night unanimously condemned Mr. Farrakhan.

By a 95-0 vote, the Senate passed the non-binding resolution urging the chairman of both the Democratic and Republican Parties to also repudiate expressions of hatred.

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Salvage men battle to save oil on attacked Swiss tanker

BAHRAIN (R) — Dutch firefighters battled Friday to save up to \$50 million worth of crude oil aboard the Swiss-managed tanker Tiburon, burning fiercely in the Gulf since she was hit by an Iraqi Exocet missile two days ago.

Four tugs were wrestling to keep the bow of the 260,000-ton vessel into a strong north-westerly wind, to fan the flames afterwards and away from the fuel holds.

Gulf shipping sources said the tugs, including one from Iran, had towed the blazing tanker away from the Iranian coast into international waters. They said earlier reports that the ship would be towed to Bahrain were incorrect.

"The Tiburon was towed away from the Iranian coast simply to catch a stronger wind. There were no political reasons for the move and the ship will stay in the middle of the Gulf until the fire is put out," one Gulf salvage official told reporters.

The Tiburon was the worst victim so far, in terms of casualties, of this year's shipping war between Iran and Iraq.

Eight crewmen, one West German and seven Spaniards, died when an Exocet missile, thought likely to have been fired by a French-made Iraqi Super-

Endanger fighter plane, slammed into the ship's engine room shortly after 0915 GMT on Wednesday. The shipping sources said the salvage men were pumping water and foam onto the tanker to prevent explosions from igniting her 250,000 tonnes of crude or releasing it into the shallow waterway in what would be a major pollution disaster.

The firefighters, from the Dutch-based Smit International, were using the wind in their favour but faced temperatures of over 35 degrees centigrade which they feared could cause explosions or dangerous metal expansion, the sources said.

The more than 20 crewmen, mostly Spaniards, who survived the attack abandoned ship as the fire spread. They were ferried to the Iranian coast and reportedly taken later to Tehran.

The Tiburon was still being gently towed, always with the bow into the wind, the sources said. Her latest position was 28 degrees

29 minutes north and 50 degrees 01 minutes east, about halfway between the Iranian and Saudi Arabian coasts where the waterway is about 80 metres deep, the sources said.

The vessel, which had loaded at Kharg on Wednesday morning, was already south of Bushehr when hit. Managed by the Swiss company Suisse Outremer Reeder, she was headed out of the Gulf bound for Rotterdam.

The Swiss company said in Zurich Thursday the Tiburon was a write-off and put its value at \$10 million. Depending on what type of crude is on board, the cargo could be worth up to \$50 million.

Meanwhile, shipping sources around the Gulf said they had heard of no unusual activity around Kharg Island since the Tiburon was hit. They were commenting on unconfirmed press reports of a possible Iraqi air attack on the island. Neither Iran nor Iraq has reported any such attack.

Iraq has fired on dozens of ships in the Gulf, particularly this year, after unilaterally declaring the area around Kharg a prohibited war zone.

Iraq began retaliating against ships on the Arabian side of the Gulf last May to put pressure on

the Gulf Arab states which support Iraq in the Gulf conflict.

Spain protests

In Madrid the Spanish government has instructed its embassy in Baghdad to protest formally over Iraq's missile attack on the oil tanker Tiburon in which seven Spaniards died, officials said Friday.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry Thursday night summoned Iraqi Embassy First Secretary Mohammad Bahjat Izzad to deliver a verbal protest, they added.

Kharg working normally

Iraq's main Kharg Island oil terminal is operating normally despite reports from across the Gulf that it was being prepared for a possible attack by Iraq, diplomats in Tehran said Thursday.

The diplomats said that after a brief shut down Wednesday, blamed by authorities on bad weather, two tankers were loaded with crude.

An Iranian Oil Ministry spokesman said he had heard nothing new from Kharg since Monday, when he said the terminal was working normally.

Soviet team ends visit to Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — A Soviet delegation left Iran after apparently making significant progress in mending relations between Tehran and Moscow.

The delegation, led by Deputy Power Minister Alexei Makukhin, had spent a week here and reached agreements in principle on mutual co-operation in several energy projects.

The agreements were the first reached with Moscow by Iran's radical Islamic rulers since relations between the two countries plunged 13 months ago.

Mr. Makukhin, the first Soviet official to visit Tehran since then, told reporters before leaving the trip had been "successful".

Diplomats said the visit could herald a marked change in economic relations between Iran and its northern neighbour.

Iran had also shown it could turn to Moscow to offset any growth of United States influence with Arab states in the Gulf region, they said.

Iran's Gulf war with Iraq overshadowed the visit with Iran concerned over Moscow's arms supplies to Baghdad. The diplomats said that, as expected, no mention of this had been made in reports of Mr. Makukhin's meeting with Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati.

But Iran would not doubt have stressed it sought a more balanced approach by Moscow to arms supplies, they said.

The agreements in principle covered completing power plants under construction in Isfahan and Ahwaz, the building of two dams on the Aras River bordering the two countries by the Caspian Sea and exchange of energy.

Although not announced publicly, informed sources said the Soviet Union withdrew 800 technicians working on the partially completed Ahwaz power plant last February amid anti-Soviet rhetoric by Iran.

Iran warns it will strike back after another Iraqi air attack

BAHRAIN (R) — A new flare-up in the Gulf "tanker war" looked in prospect Thursday as Iran warned it would strike back after another Iraqi air attack on an oil tanker near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

Iran's cabinet met Wednesday to discuss the Iraqi attacks on shipping using its ports and Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said later: "We will deliver a blow for every blow we receive."

His statement, which said Iran would also hit at Baghdad's supporters, came after Iraq reported attacking two more vessels in the northern Gulf and warned of

"even more severe attacks" on shipping which continued to serve Iranian ports.

There was no confirmation of any attack on a second vessel.

The latest Iraqi strike came two days after Iraq shattered a two-week lull in the "tanker war" with a missile attack on the Greek-owned Alexander the Great at Kharg Island last Sunday.

That 330,000-ton supertanker was not badly damaged and left Kharg under its own power.

But reports in oil industry and diplomatic sources suggested two loading terminals at Kharg Island may have been damaged in the attack.

In Rotterdam, oil traders involved in Iranian crude oil said it was unlikely ultra-large oil tankers would be able to load at the terminal until the weekend.

The latest attacks and the Iranian warning raised fears that Iran would hit back at ships serving ports in other Gulf states.

Earlier this month Saudi jets shot down an Iranian F-4 Phantom over the Gulf and warplanes from the six nation Gulf Co-operation Council member states, backed by American-maned AWACS radar planes, are now flying patrols over the waterway to protect shipping.

Iranian Kurds reportedly fleeing into Turkey

ANKARA (R) — About 200 Iranian Kurds, including women and children, have fled to Turkey this week to escape an apparent sweep against Kurdish militants in north-west Iran by Iranian Security Forces, according to reports from the area reaching Ankara Thursday.

Local reporters said a group of 45 people, mostly women and chil-

dren, reached the Turkish town of Baskale, near the remote mountainous frontier Thursday, and were being held in a local school. They followed at least 150 people who had crossed the border previously, they said.

There has been no official comment on the reports.

Local reporters said at least five of those that had come across the

border were wounded from clashes with Iranian forces and were in a hospital in the eastern city of Van.

They added it appeared Iranian Security Forces had launched a major operation against Kurdish militants in the border region. Ethnic Kurds have long fought campaigns against Tehran for greater local autonomy.

Pro-Israeli militia detains Lebanese troops

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A pro-Israeli militia detained seven off-duty Lebanese army soldiers Friday who were trying to leave Israeli-occupied South Lebanon by a dirt track, security sources said.

The soldiers were not leaving by the only officially open road, through the mountain village of Bateh, 30 kilometres east of Sidon, because they did not have the required passes from the Israelis, the security sources said.

The Israelis require Lebanese to get permits to leave or enter the south. The procedure often takes days and the Israelis have often refused to give permits to drive cars into the south.

Once travellers do get a permit and proceed to the Israeli checkpoint at Bateh, they have to join

a queue that sometimes is three kilometres long and takes hours or days to get through.

The Lebanese soldiers were returning to their army units in West Beirut after visiting their families, the sources said, and were led away by the militia known as the "South Lebanon Army" which has a checkpoint on the dirt track.

At the Israeli checkpoint on the official road, Israeli soldiers detained two people from Sidon who were on their way to Beirut, the sources added.

No reason was given for any of the detentions. Israel has said it has applied strict security measures to reduce almost daily attacks on its troops.

Communist activists in the south spread leaflets on Sidon str-

ets overnight attacking the "South Lebanon Army" and praising resistance fighters against the Israeli occupation, residents said.

Signed by the "Communist Action Organisation" South Branch, the leaflets declared that "a south that resists is the gate to liberation and unification."

The Communist Action Organisation is one of the groups working in a loosely-knit "Lebanese National Resistance" group, residents said. In a speech in Beirut marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, the country's top Sunni Muslim spiritual leader renewed his call for the freeing of the south.

"The top priority remains to liberate our land and people from the occupying Israeli enemy," said the cleric, Mufti Hassan Khaled.

Officer disputes death of Israeli prisoner

TEL AVIV (R) — A senior Israeli officer Friday disputed a report by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) that an Israeli prisoner had been killed in Israeli raids on Palestinian bases in Lebanon.

Maj.-Gen. Amos Yaron, chief of manpower, who helped to arrange Thursday's exchange of prisoners between Israel and Syria, said similar claims had been made in the past by the Palestinian commandos and had proved to be untrue.

"It is a familiar tactic used by the terrorists to stop our raids on

their bases," Mr. Yaron told reporters.

"In my opinion the Israeli prisoner is alive and I wish to remind the terrorists that he is their responsibility and they are bound to care for his safety."

"If they fail to do this, we will find the means to respond."

A DFLP spokesman said in Damascus Thursday that Israeli Druze Sergeant Samir Assad died with three of his Palestinian guards during the Israeli raids.

But the spokesman did not specify exactly where or when the Israeli raid occurred.

Ali tipped to head new Egyptian government

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Acting Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali will almost certainly be confirmed in the job and head a new cabinet likely to be sworn in on July 10 by President Hosni Mubarak, sources close to the government said Friday.

A new cabinet must be formed after May 27 parliamentary elections and the death from a heart attack of Prime Minister Fuad, Mohammed on June 5.

The sources said a major reshuffle was unlikely. But Ahmad Essmat Abdul Meguid, former chief delegate at the United Nations, would probably come in as foreign minister, the job that Mr. Ali held under Mr. Mohieddin, they added.

Mr. Abdul Meguid, 61, served in the U.N. from the mid-1970s to 1983, when he reached civil service retiring age. He has an Egyptian law degree and French doctorate in international law.

The sources said Mr. Ali, 62, would start final consultations on forming the new cabinet after the Muslim feast of 'Eid al-Fitr ending the fasting month of Ramadan. Egypt's government will have a marked military flavour.

Mr. Mubarak is a Soviet-trained former flight pilot and air force chief. Mr. Ali is an ex-general and a third military man. Field Marshal Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, is almost certain to stay on as defence minister and deputy prime minister.

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Arens denies elections influenced PoW swap

TEL AVIV (R) — As Israelis freed by Syria returned home in an exchange of prisoners, Defence Minister Moshe Arens Thursday night rejected any link between the swap and Israel's forthcoming general election.

In return for six of its men captured in Lebanon, Israel Thursday released 291 Syrians captured in fighting in the 1982 Lebanon war, together with 20 Arab civilians held in Israeli jails.

Israel newspapers had speculated that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud government, trailing the opposition Labour Party in pre-election polls, might have agreed to the exchange to strengthen its position.

But Mr. Arens told reporters: "The implication is that we were ready to risk the lives and faces of

our men out of political considerations. Of course there was no consideration of any political nature, and I find it insulting that anyone even raises it."

Uri Avnery, a leftist politician running for parliament on a Jewish-Arab list, said the timing of the exchange raised a serious question over whether the prisoners' suffering was extended longer than necessary.

"It should not be forgotten that it was the Likud government which was responsible for their falling prisoner, in order to enable to Likud government to pull out an electoral rabbit three weeks before the election," said Mr. Avnery.

But Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, in an election statement broadcast by state television, appealed to Israelis to unite in welcoming their returned

soldiers. "In times like these, even with an election campaign, one has to appreciate what the government did," he said.

Mr. Arens said the government of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had notified Israel via the International Red Cross and other intermediaries last November that it was willing to negotiate a prisoner exchange.

Mr. Shmuel Tamir, a former justice minister who handled the negotiations for Israel, said the exchange agreement was almost broken off when Syria refused to release three Israeli Foreign Ministry employees captured north of Beirut in May.

"They wanted to settle only on the first three (soldiers)," said Mr. Tamir. "Only a couple of days ago did they agree."

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.					
JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL 15:00 Koran 15:10 Children Programme 15:35 Cartoons 16:20 Religious Programme 17:15 Ramadan Puzzle 17:25 The Truth About Spring 18:00 Programme Review 19:10 Arabic Series 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic Series 21:25 Varieties 22:25 Arabic Film 23:00 News in Arabic 23:10 Film Continued. FOREIGN CHANNEL 18:00 French Programme 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:30 Jennifer Slept Here 21:00 Saturday Variety Show 22:00 News in English 22:15 Feature film - Pad and How to Use It RADIO JORDAN 85.5 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsweek 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:05 Morning Show 11:00 News Summary 11:05 Pop Session 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Pop Session 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Jordan Weekly 14:30 Concert Hour 15:00 News Summary 16:05 Instruments 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Special Feature 17:30 News Summary 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Top Twenty 19:00 News 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Just A Minute 21:00 News Summary 21:05 Country Music 21:55 News Summary 22:00 Play of the Week 22:05 News Summary 23:05 Classical Concert 24:00 News Headlines		BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz 06:00 Newsweek 06:30 That's The Trud 06:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:29 24 Hours: News Summary 07:15 About Britain The World Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Album Time 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From the Weeklies 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Peebles' Choice 10:30 Arin of Britain 1984 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 People and Politics 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 My Music 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 About Britain 13:30 Meri- dian 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Tro- picking the Colour 14:45 Sports Round- up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Saturday Special 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary 19:30 Saturday Special 19:15 Baker's Half Dozen 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Play of the Week: Richard III 21:30 Album Time 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Journey Into Hope 23:15 Wimbledon Preview 23:30 People and Politics 24:00 World News 00:09 From our own Correspondent VOICE OF AMERICA 1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 15210 KHz 06:00 VOA Morning News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; editorial; world and U.S. op- inion roundups; documentary analysis; American viewpoints; features 17:00 News 17:16 This Week 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 American viewpoints 18:30 Press Conference USA 19:00 News 19:10 This Week 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:30 Weekend Survey of World News, Cor- respondent's Reports, Music, Cultural Events and Features 21:00 News 21:10 American Viewpoints 21:30 Press Con- ference USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA (1221) 23:00 Weekend Survey of World News, Cor- respondent's Reports, Music, Cultural events and Features		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * Exhibition of paintings by various Jordanian artists at Alia Art Gallery. * "Le Carnaval de Nice" at the French Cultural Centre. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267 British Council 44371 American Centre Library 41520 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Hays Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes from 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Chalced Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzium, Jabal Leishida. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. 1520 Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 81324. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Leishida, 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hossien, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 77551. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771531. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771551. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisim, 663249. PRAYER TIMES 06:51 Fajr 04:33 (Sunrise) Shurub 11:29 Dhuhr 12:20 Asr 18:43 Maghreb 28:30 'Isha		AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 05:50 Cairo (MS) 09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:30 Agaba (RJ) 09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 09:45 Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 Riyadh (RJ) 09:45 Jeddah (RJ) 09:45 Othman (RJ) 10:00 Cairo (RJ) 10:00 Singapore (RJ) 12:05 Amman, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 12:30 Laraca (CY) 14:40 Kuwait (AF) 17:10 Paris, Damascus (KU) 17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ) 18:00 Balgrade, Istanbul (RJ) 18:30 Cairo (RJ) 18:45 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 19:00 Tripoli (RJ) 19:00 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH) 20:30 Kuwait (MS) 00:45 Cairo (RJ) 00:45 Baghdad (RJ) DEPARTURES 05:10 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 05:45 Cairo (RJ) 06:15 Cairo (MS) 07:15 Agaba (RJ) 08:30 Athens (OA) 11:15 Tripoli (RJ) 11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ) 12:00 Paris, London (RJ) 12:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 12:15 New York, Vienna (RJ) 12:30 Rome (RJ) 13:30 Laraca (CY) 14:30 Bahrain, Doha, Muscat (GF) 14:30 Cairo (RJ) 15:40 Kuwait (RJ) 15:40 Riyadh (RJ) 18:15 Baghdad (RJ) 18:15 Jeddah (RJ) 20:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 20:45 Cairo (RJ) 21:50 Cairo (MS)		MARITIME TRAFFIC Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: — Jolly Celeste — Tria — Belkis — Ibn Malik — Badr — Vili Delunerie — Al Farabi — Ashrafman Maras — Noshro Maru Amin Kawan and Sons Company, Tel. 2324 (six lines) at your service. MONEY EXCHANGE Local sell/buy rates in Jls Belgian franc 66.5/ 66.9 Dutch guilder 120.1/ 120.8 Egyptian guinea 320.6/ 324.6 French franc 44.1/ 44.4 Iraqi dinar 368/ 372 Italian lire (for 100) 22/ 22.2 Japanese yen (for 100) 159/ 160 Kuwaiti dinar 1256.6/ 1263.3 Lebanese lira 62.8/ 63.6 Omani rial 103.3/ 103.6 Saudi riyal 106.6/ 107.1 Swedish crown 46.1/ 46.4 Swiss franc 161.8/ 162.8 Syrian lira 30.7/ 31.3 U.A.E. dirham 102.6/ 103.1 U.K. sterling pound 510.1/ 513.2 U.S. dollar 379/ 381 W. German mark 135.3/ 136.1 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be normal summer, with north-westerly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C Amman 15/30 Aqaba 22/37 Deserts 14/34 Jordan Valley 21/37 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent. Aqaba 19 per cent.		EMERGENCIES Ambulance 193, 775111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 775121 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 22090-3 Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 77125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32 Khadija Maternity, J. Amman 44241-4 Al-Khadija Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jabal Amman Maternity 42362 Malhas, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, Shmeisim 664171-4 Shmeisim Hospital 660131 University Hospital 845845 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Abadi 665592 Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164 Italian, Al-Mohajreen 777101-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111 Army, Marja 91611 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Salmaan Dahoubi 776751 MARKET PRICES Upperflower price in Jls per kg. Apples 650/ 700 Apricots 650/ 700 Banana 240/ 240 Banana (Mukammal) 240/ 210 Beans 350/ 300 Berries 600/ 500 Cabbage 80/ 60 Carrots 140/ 100 Cauliflower (white) 200/ 180 Cherries (all kinds) 900/ 800 Chick peas 100/ 80 Cucumber (large) 120/ 100 Cucumber (small) 150/ 120 Eggplant (large) 180/ 150 Eggplant (small) 180/ 150 Figs 700/ 600 Grapefruit 210/ 180 Grapes 350/ 300 Lemon 320/ 280 Mallow 80/ 60 Marrow (large) 100/ 80 Marrow (small) 140/ 110 Onion (dry) 140/ 100 Onion (green) 140/ 110 Okra 540/ 500 Oranges (local) 230/ 200 Oranges 280/ 250 Parsley 100/ 100 Peaches 570/ 520 Pepper (sweet) 360/ 330 Pepper (hot green) 280/ 240 Plums (sweet) 240/ 280 Plums (red) 240/ 280 Potatoes 140/ 150 Sweet Melon 230/ 250 Strawberries 300/ 240 Tomatoes 350/ 300 Watermelon 100/ 80	

Home news

Hassan visits Ireland for co-operation talks

DUBLIN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan arrived here on a one-day official visit to the Republic of Ireland.

During his visit, Prince Hassan discussed with the Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald bilateral relations between Ireland and Jordan and ways of strengthening ties in the technical and economic fields.

Prince Hassan also reviewed with Mr. Fitzgerald the issue of possible European Community (EC) aid to Jordan to help it achieve its goals in supporting industries and other investments to serve the requirements of the neighbouring Arab countries.

Jordan has made also special economic bilateral arrangements with Arab countries within the framework of the Arab Common Market and the Council of Economic Co-operation, according to the Jordan news agency, Petra.

Mr. Fitzgerald, Petra added, will take over the presidency of the forthcoming session of the EC.

Chamber, Taiwan team seek stronger trade links

AMMAN (Petra) — Commercial relations between Jordan and Taiwan and ways of strengthening them were discussed Thursday during a meeting between the Amman Chamber of Commerce secretary-general, Said Ma'touq, and a two-man Taiwanese commercial delegation.

They also discussed the disputes which sometimes arise over commercial transactions between Jordanian merchants and those from Taiwan, and the best ways of putting an end to such disputes.

Mr. Ma'touq called on the authorities in Taiwan to take deterrent measures against those trying to manipulate or to encroach upon the rights of Jordanian merchants.

Mr. Ma'touq also briefed them on the measures adopted by the chamber to solve commercial disputes, and the arbitration procedures in Jordan.

The two Taiwanese officials displayed their breadth of understanding of this subject and promised to seek proper solutions to end any commercial disputes which might arise in the future.

Education course slated

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education will take part in a training course on "Science, Education and Society," which will open in London on July 22 under the auspices of the British Council.

The ministry has delegated Diana Sa'd from the Princess Alia Community College to attend the two week course which will discuss scientific research in relation to development and ways of bolstering the role of community colleges in science and education.



His Majesty King Hussein takes part in Al Maghreb prayers, held after an Iftar banquet he hosted at the Hussein Youth City Thursday (Petra photo).

King hosts banquet in honour of notables

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday hosted an Iftar banquet at the Hussein Youth City, in honour of Palestinian refugee notables and dignitaries from all over Jordan.

Attending the party were Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud.

King Hussein and the guests later performed Al Maghreb prayer.

1983 balance of payments registers JD 15.4m surplus

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's overall balance of payments dipped into deficit in the fourth quarter of 1983, but showed a surplus for the whole year after a deficit in 1982, official figures issued recently have shown.

The fourth quarter deficit was JD 5.5 million after a surplus of JD 10.5 million in the third quarter and a deficit of JD 41.8 million in the fourth quarter of 1982, the provisional Central Bank of Jordan figures showed.

But the balance of payments for the whole of 1983 showed a surplus of JD 15.4 million after a deficit of JD 4.9 million in 1982.

The fourth quarter current account deficit was JD 57.5 million after a surplus of JD 6.9 million in the third quarter and a shortfall of JD 63.2 million a year earlier.

The visible trade deficit was JD 248.1 million after deficits of JD 224.0 million and JD 271.3 million in the previous and year earlier quarters respectively.

Exports rose to JD 59 million from JD 42.6 million in the previous quarter, but were below the JD 70.7 million in the last quarter of 1982, the figures showed.

The visible deficit was partly offset by an invisible trade surplus of JD 86.6 million in the fourth quarter against JD 162.9 million and JD 96.2 million surpluses in the previous and year earlier quarters.

Anani reaches crude oil pipeline accord with Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Iraq have reached agreement on all matters connected with the signing of an agreement on the construction of an oil pipeline from the Iraqi port of Al Haditha to the Jordanian port of Aqaba, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani announced here Thursday night.

before the signing of a contract for its implementation. Dr. Anani pointed out.

Oil, commodity exchange

Also under the agreement, Iraq will export oil products to Jordan in exchange for the supply of commodities, transport services and facilities for Iraq.

Another subject discussed during the minister's visit, was a joint Iraqi-Jordanian company for processing Jordanian agricultural products.

It was announced in Washington on Wednesday that the American Export-Import Bank has offered financial help of up to \$500 million to U.S. firms exporting equipment and services to be used in building the oil pipeline from Al Haditha to Aqaba. The bank, a federal government agency, helps finance exports sales of American goods and services.

He was speaking upon returning to Amman from a visit to Iraq where he held talks with Iraqi Oil Minister Ahmad Taqi and other senior Iraqi officials on the pipeline project.

The 950-kilometre line is expected to cost \$950 million and will be built by an American firm, Dr. Anani said.

The minister also said that he will return to Baghdad by the end of next week to initial the projected agreement that was reached in principle by Iraq and Jordan last April.

A technical committee from

Jordan will leave for Baghdad during the coming week to put the finishing touches to the agreement, Dr. Anani added.

The minister, who described his talks in Baghdad as fruitful, useful and constructive, said that the talks covered all aspects of the project. The agreement was reached on all basic points that will organise dealings between Jordan and Iraq on the one hand and the American firm on the other.

Negotiations with the American firm, which will implement the project, and the sources which will finance it will begin by mid July

Drivers get road safety appeal for holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents Friday appealed to all drivers to turn the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday into a happy and a safe one.

The society's appeal came in a communique issued on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr. In its communique, the society called on all drivers not to drive too fast in order to avoid road tragedies during this happy occasion.

It also called on pedestrians to use the special areas allocated for road crossing to walk on the pavement when possible.

The society also called on all parents to keep an eye on their children when crossing the street and to protect them from being hit by cars.

It also asked drivers not to exploit this occasion by violating traffic laws and regulations, and not to over load their cars with passengers.

Finally, the society expressed the hope that the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday will pass without accident or losses of life. This, the society said, can be achieved if all those concerned follow the rules of common sense as well as obeying the regulations.

Export of eggs raises \$20 million in 4 years

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan sold Iraq and other Gulf Arab states 265 million eggs over the past four years, of which Iraq bought the lion's share, Mr. Suleiman Irtimih, chairman of a committee supervising the work of the Jordanian Co-operative Society for the marketing of eggs said in an interview with Al Dustour daily Arabic newspaper.

He said that the four-year shipment of eggs had earned the country \$20 million.

Mr. Irtimih, who was speaking on the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the society, said that this year Jordan will produce nearly 360 million eggs, of which

the local market will consume 300 million.

The co-operative society has won contracts to sell Iraq 20 million eggs until the end of 1984, and plans are being made to sell other shipments of eggs to the Gulf Arab states, Mr. Irtimih added.

The society has been promised by the Ministry of Agriculture a piece of land near Abu Alanda, to the south of here, for the establishment of a central pool of eggs where they will be graded and packed for sale, and where cold stores can be built to keep the eggs before going to market, Mr. Irtimih said.

Regulation of labour force to alleviate unemployment

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new amendment to the labour law was enforced early this month regulating the supply of manpower to give job priorities to Jordanians. In particular the new amendment stipulates that all non Jordanians working in the country must acquire a work permit.

"This amendment to the labour law empowers the ministry to refuse or grant work permits to Arab and foreign workers depending on the availability of the Jordanian workforce", Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, minister of labour told the Jordan Times.

"The Jordanian labour market is in a state of dynamic fluctuation. During the 1970's, Jordan faced a shortage of labour and was forced to import a large number of Arab and foreign labourers to fill the vacuum in fields such as construction, agriculture, the hotel industry and transport.

"Since 1983 we have had signs of unemployment, especially among skilled labour, and that is due, among other reasons, to the increase in the number of Jordanian graduates, the number of which amounted to 16,000 this year, from different community colleges and polytechnics," he said.

"As a result, we felt the need to regulate the inflow of Arab and foreign workers in order to give priority to Jordanians to benefit from job opportunities," Dr. Abdul Jabbar added.

Order of priorities

The new amendment states that in all cases priority will be given to Jordanians, then to Arab experts, labourers and technicians. No worker should be brought into the country without prior approval from the Ministry of Labour, except in some cases for which arrangements will be made in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior.

"This does not mean that the ministry will be taking arbitrary measures against the available Arab and foreign workforce", he said. "The termination of the services of the 400 Egyptian teachers by the Ministry of Education is due to the fact that there are many applicants who want to work in the public sector and in the ministry," he added.

"Last year we had 8,000 Jordanian applicants to the Civil Service Commission, those being graduates from community colleges, universities and from secondary education," Dr. Abdul Jabbar continued.

The number of Arab and foreign workers in Jordan amounts to 120,000, 90,000 of whom are Arabs, mostly Egyptians. "I believe that 120,000 is the maximum number which we have



Labourers in Jordan (above) wait outside the ministry's employment office while inside (below) an employee charges an applicant for his new work permit (J.T. file photo)



here and the estimated stock of labour in Jordan will not increase," Dr. Abdul Jabbar said.

"Under the new law we are organising the inflow of the Arab and foreign workforce by issuing a work permit valid for a period one year to each and every non-Jordanian whose application the ministry approves," he said.

The work permit will be issued against a fee of JD 10 for Arabs, and JD 30 for non Arabs. Also, a two month period of grace is being given to labourers in all sectors to obtain their work permits, except agricultural in which the period is three months.

A fine of JD 30 for each month's delay will be imposed on labourers who do not obtain their work permits.

Between June 2 and 21, the total number of work permits issued were 11,926 for Arab workers, and 1,650 for foreign workers and the total fees collected were JD 168,790. "We are expecting to collect something like JD 1 million in one year," Dr. Abdul Jabbar said.

"Brain drain"

In an earlier interview with the Reuter news agency last month, Dr. Abdul Jabbar explained that the ministry is expecting 10,000 Jordanian workers operating in the Gulf to return to Jordan. However, 6,000 others are expected to go and work there.

The ministry is also studying the possibility of employing elementary and preparatory education graduates, with farmers and land owners in the hope of raising Jordanian interest in agriculture.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour has opened new offices in the Jordan Valley, Ramtha, Tafila, Ma'an, Jerash, Madaba and North Shouneh in order to enable it to extend its services to different cities and towns all over the country.

New labour offices will also be opened in South Shouneh and Deir Alla in the near future to serve the surrounding areas.

"Generate income"

"This will add to the financial burden of the government, but with the new law we will be able to generate the income to cover the expenses incurred by running these facilities," Dr. Abdul Jabbar said.

The Ministry of Labour will also issue work permits to workers who are not full-time employees. These will be available to the agricultural sector whenever they are needed.

The labour law also stipulates that the number of Jordanians working in companies should not be less than 50 per cent in the construction industry and 60 per cent in operational projects.

In the case of HANBO, a South Korean construction company which is employing far less than 50 per cent of Jordanian workers, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said: "We have required HANBO to donate a vocational training centre which will cost up to \$1 million."

This training centre will be in the Jordan Valley and will be used for different agricultural purposes. "We consider this a very good formula," he added.

Illegal recruitment

The labour market in Jordan is subject to certain illegal recruiting traffic and some recruiting agencies are operating under the name of other industries or businesses.


Fourteen of these recruiting agencies were closed at one time as they were working as middle men between foreign workers and the Jordanian labour market.

Regarding this problem, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said "we will penalise such agencies if we receive definite information that they are working as recruiting agencies."

"Nowadays, our importation of labour from Asia and other parts of the world has been very much reduced. Most of our labour force is Arab, particularly from Egypt," he added.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar concluded: "Most of our importation of labour is now basically in the field of home helps. It seems that there is a social need for these people."

Jordan Times
Tel: 666320
666265



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UNESCO has a different story to tell

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by the United States government of its intention to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has given rise to various allegations about the organisation's policies, activities and management. These call for the following rectifications and clarifications.

1. Who decides about UNESCO's policies, programme and budget?

UNESCO is an inter-governmental organisation with 161 member states and three associate members. The Holy See participates as an observer in a number of its activities.

The General Conference, to which observers from all governmental and non-governmental organisations are invited, is made up of representatives of the member states. It has sovereign power to determine UNESCO's policies, the programme, and vote the budget, deciding upon the organisation's medium-term plan every six years and adopting its programme and budget every other year.

The Executive Board, whose members are elected by the General Conference, is responsible to it for the execution of the programme.

The Secretariat, which is placed under the authority of the director-general himself appointed by the General Conference — carries out the General Conference's decisions. The director-general reports periodically to the governing bodies on the execution of the programme and the management of the organisation's funds. He also submits proposals concerning UNESCO's programme and budget, but the final decisions rest with the General Conference alone.

2. Has UNESCO strayed from the purposes for which it was founded?

Those who make this particular allegation hark back to a kind of "golden age", when the organisation was supposedly sheltered from world tensions and aroused universal admiration for its effective literacy campaigns or for rescuing the temples of Nubia.

This contrasting of a glorious past with the present systematically depicted as gloomy overlooks crucial facts.

The issue of whether the organisation has remained faithful to its constitution cannot be judged simply by its practical achievements or quantitative results.

UNESCO's primary purpose, in fact, is to develop intellectual co-operation among nations. It serves as a forum for the activities of the mind — education, science, culture, information and communication — and promotes exchanges of ideas and knowledge in these fields. Hence, among other things, the research the organisation carried out itself or entrusted to various institutions; the meetings, seminars and symposia that it organises, bringing together specialists from all over the world; and the books, periodicals and documents that it publishes and distributes on a worldwide scale. The fact that, of all the agencies of the United Nations system, it is UNESCO that currently has the largest number of member states demonstrates the importance they attach to it.

As to practical achievements, UNESCO's current "operational activities" can fully bear comparison with those of its earlier years.

Between 1979 and 1983, UNESCO carried out over a thousand "operational projects" in nearly one hundred member states, for which purpose it alone mustered nearly \$400 million, to say nothing of the hundreds of other projects which it helped to implement by providing the services of experts and advisers or by acting as an intermediary. These

"projects" or "achievements" cover a multitude of undertakings, ranging from educational planning and reform in an African country to the restoration of a Buddhist temple or the construction of an oceanographic research vessel.

During the same period, UNESCO was involved in campaigns which brought literacy to over fifteen million adults and young people not enrolled in schools. In 1980 alone it took part in the training of nearly 30,000 teachers.

Since 1978, UNESCO has got together more than \$40 million for twenty-nine international campaigns to safeguard historic monuments and sites; among these are Venice, the Acropolis, the Plaza Vieja in Havana, the island of Goree in Senegal and Sri Lanka's "Cultural Triangle". More than a thousand million dollars will have to be found to carry these campaigns to a successful conclusion.

The organisation spends nearly \$30 million a year on its international scientific programmes, such as the International Hydrological Programme, the International Geological Correlation Programme or the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB). The member states, for their part, contribute more than \$500 million to these programmes, and over 20,000 scientists are taking part in them. Every year, more than 4,000 researchers receive training under UNESCO's auspices.

3. Is UNESCO "politicised"?

It was the will of its founders that UNESCO should be apolitical. They felt that shortcomings in international co-operation in the realm of ideas had been partly responsible for the emergence of Fascism and brought about the World War II. The organisation was thus established to build a peace "founded upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind."

It is political by virtue of its fields of competence: education, science, culture, information and communication are clearly not unrelated to the way societies are governed, i.e. to politics in the true sense of the word.

It is political by virtue of its constitution, since the General Conference, UNESCO's supreme body, is made up of representatives of the governments of the member states, who naturally use that forum to express their governments' views and concerns.

The political situation in the world is, therefore, inevitably reflected within UNESCO. Only if one considers that the problems confronting the international community have been "politicised" since 1945 can it be said that the organisation is now more "politicised" than when it was founded.

4. Is there an "automatic majority" in UNESCO?

For this to be so, two conditions would need to be fulfilled: firstly, the decisions to be taken must be put to the vote; and secondly, when they are, the voting must clearly reveal the existence of an "automatic majority".

For several years, however, UNESCO has been following a distinctive practice: that of seeking consensus, thus making it possible to take full account of the fundamental positions of all member states, including those in the smallest minority, and to adopt decisions without taking a vote. UNESCO's second medium-term plan, for instance, which provides the framework for its activities for 1984-1989, was adopted by consensus.

Consensus-seeking has been made a general practice by the setting up of a "Drafting and Negotiation Group" at each session of the General Conference since 1976. The General Conference entrusts this group with the most con-



UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar Mbow

roversial draft resolutions, mandating it to propose amendments to them or even to propose their withdrawal in some cases, so that as far as possible a formula obtaining general consent can be arrived at. At the last General Conference, out of 134 resolutions not dealing with elections but with the policies and activities of the organisation, 132 were adopted without being put to a vote. Above all, experience proves that the voting does not faithfully or systematically hug the contours of the various regional groups into which member states are divided.

5. Does UNESCO deal with matters outside its competence, such as peace and disarmament?

The answer is all there in the constitution, which states in its preamble that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed", and, under the heading "Purposes and functions", that "the purpose of the organisation is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture...". It is within these three specific fields that UNESCO carries out its action for peace and disarmament, thus approaching these matters from an angle entirely different from that of the United Nations or the Geneva Conference.

6. Does UNESCO advocate censorship, licensing of journalists and "codes of conduct" for the press?

Without a single exception all its resolutions on information and communication have been adopted by consensus, thus fully respecting the basic convictions of all member states. Not one of these resolutions and not one of the statements made by the director-general advocates licensing or codes of conduct for journalists, let alone censorship, while a recent (Feb. 25, 1983) State Department report to the United States Congress acknowledged that "UNESCO to date has debated but not implemented policies or procedures of an anti-free press nature."

Whilst member states and experts are all fully entitled to defend any position or proposal as they see fit without UNESCO, only those which explicitly appear in the resolution of its supreme body, the General Conference, become the positions and proposals of UNESCO.

7. Does UNESCO wish to subordinate human rights to the rights of peoples?

"Nothing in the proposed programme authorises such an interpretation", as the director-general said at the last session of the General Conference. "Human rights and the rights of peoples", he stated, "are organically linked. Without the rights of peoples, human rights are in danger of remaining purely formal... Without human rights, the

monitoring bodies has called into question the management of the organisation as a whole.

One recent review, made by another body totally independent of UNESCO, resulted in the following appraisal: "We regard the management procedure to be unique and forward-looking compared to other United Nations agencies examined and further, as having potential for improving the effectiveness of United States participation in UNESCO" (Report to Congress by the United States Comptroller General, Sept. 14, 1979).

Finally, any member state may request an explanation of needs on the management and finances of the organisation from the director-general. It was in accordance with this rule that the director-general immediately agreed to ensure full co-operation on the part of the Secretariat in a review of UNESCO operations to be undertaken by the United States Congress in accordance with the rules and practices of the United Nations system.

10. Has UNESCO's budget increased inordinately?

The budget has been reduced by 13 per cent; it was \$430 million for 1982-1983, and the General Conference approved a budget of \$374 million for 1984-1985. The main reason for this reduction is the rise of the United States dollar against the French franc, the currency in which more than 60 per cent of UNESCO's expenditure is incurred.

It should also be pointed out that other agencies of the United Nations system have just adopted increased budgets: the International Labour Organisation, up four per cent, the World Health Org-

anisation, up 12 per cent, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, up 15 per cent.

11. Is UNESCO overstaffed and is its staff overpaid?

The total salaries of UNESCO staff made up less than 50 per cent of the total sums managed by the Organisation in the last budgetary period. This percentage has been steadily declining since the early 1970s, when it peaked at around 65 per cent.

These percentages should be seen in the light of the fact that UNESCO does not produce goods but mainly provides services. As in any enterprise of this nature, staff salaries necessarily account for a substantial part of the budget.

The total number of staff actually on the payroll (General Service, Professional and above, including staff away from Headquarters) was 3,444 at the beginning of 1984, as against 3,457 in 1975. According to United Nations statistics established at the end of 1982, UNESCO has the lowest proportion of high-ranking officials of all the specialised agencies. Lastly, the salary level of Professional staff is set by decisions of the General Conference, taken in strict conformity with those of the United Nations General Assembly. The pay scale for non-professional staff is determined on the basis of surveys conducted by the International Civil Service Commission and approved by the General Conference.

12. Are there too many officials from Socialist and Third World countries?

The breakdown of UNESCO staff by region of origin as of Jan. 1, 1984, was as follows:

Region	Middle- and higher-ranking professional staff (posts subject to geographical distribution) (as percentage)	Total staff (as percentage)
Western Europe and North America	39.5	62.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	8.1	4.1
Asia and the Pacific (including China and Japan)	12.8	8.3
Africa South of the Sahara	14.4	8.7
Arab States	15.8	8.6
	9.4	7.5

13. Can staff members who are expelled or imprisoned remain members of the Secretariat?

For international organisations to carry out their mission, the independence of their officials must be assured, particularly in the country where they are working. Let us suppose that, from the moment a UNESCO official is arrested, jailed or expelled from the country of his posting, his contract is automatically terminated and that consequently, his salary is stopped.

It would then be enough for one of these three things to happen to an official for UNESCO to apply to him the severest sanction within its power. In reality, as it is the case in any institution or commercial undertaking, the director-general, as head of the Secretariat, can only sanction an employee by applying the staff regulations and following the current procedures: in other words, only if the official has been guilty of a professional fault and proof of this can be put before the competent authorities — UNESCO Press.

LETTERS

Another side to Kashmir

To the Editor:

THE PAKISTANI statement (Jordan Times, Letter, June 26, 1984), in its attempt to project to the world that Kashmir as a disputed territory and not a part of India, seems to have overlooked two vital points.

1. The statement describes the Kashmiri king's agreement to join the Indian dominion in 1947 as an "unfair deal" between the "Hindu ruler of the predominantly Muslim state." Point well taken, but not taking into consideration the discussions Pakistan held with the Nizam of Hyderabad in southern India which, if it had not been for the stern stand adopted by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, would have been a "fair deal" between the Muslim ruler of predominantly Hindu state.

However, since when can one party to a conflict take upon itself the right and responsibility to judge whether the other's move was fair or unfair, rather than leaving it to the international community?

Furthermore, it was the military action by Pakistan in the state that prompted the Kashmiri ruler to turn to India, which in turn made any military help contingent on the state joining the dominion. Well-documented evidence proves that the ruler wanted to keep Kashmir an independent state without joining either India or Pakistan but the military action and its consequences forced him to seek Indian help and culminated in the agreement.

2. The statement, very conveniently it seems, falls short of stipulating the conditions under which the plebiscite, as called for by the U.N. Commission, could have been held. The U.N. Commission's resolution, adopted on Jan. 5, 1949, refers to an earlier resolution of Aug. 13, 1948, Part II of which called for a withdrawal of the Pakistani forces from Kashmir, making the plebiscite contingent on Pakistan's evacuation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Wednesday's Pakistani statement does not refer to the stipulation, but instead opts to say that the "U.N. call was unheeded," not mentioning which party to the conflict did not honour the call.

As to the content of the plebiscite, it is not sufficient evidence of the Kashmiri people's genuine desire to be part of India that they have been taking part in state polls as well as electing the representatives to the Indian Parliament in Delhi every five years?

M. Alexander
Amman.

Friday

Al Ra'i: Arabs must learn

THE COURAGEOUS resistance in South Lebanon has prompted the Israeli military forces to express their rage and rejection of maintaining their presence there. Moreover, this trend has spread among the Israelis themselves and has become part of the election campaign publicity launched by the Labour Party.

The demonstration staged by the Israeli reserve soldiers in protest against the decision to send them to Lebanon is an indicator to what the situation might reach amongst the Israelis if the Lebanese resistance continues and escalates. This means that the use of force is the only language the Israeli military establishment understands and respects since regular loss is behind the drop in the morale of the Israeli soldiers who have started to describe South Lebanon as the Vietnamese trap.

This is also a lesson which Arabs should learn as the fighters in South Lebanon have been able to defeat the Israeli forces inspite of the bad Arab situation. What would the situation be like if Arabs lived up to challenges and used force as the only means of communication with Israel. Israel has been rejecting all peace initiatives because such initiatives are not supported with force, which is the only language Israel understands, or at least because Israel is not convinced that Arabs are capable of using that language when communicating with it.

Sawt Al Shaab: Anti-peace alliance

IN A bid to counter peace efforts and to disperse any opportunity for achieving a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East, Israel and the United States describe the situation in the Middle East as imbalanced and clumsy due to the elections in both Israel and the U.S.

Israel is also manipulating the so-called political vacuum in the area to consecrate its occupation of the occupied Arab lands and to impose a fait accompli.

The U.S., which is subject to Zionist pressures and hegemony tries to exploit the opportunity for election purposes.

For these reasons, both America and Israel have rejected the proposal to hold an international conference for peace, in which all parties concerned will take part. Thus it becomes evident that the White House administration is only interested to achieve personal gains, particularly by those standing for candidacy, at the expense of U.S. interests and credibility in the area, while the Israel is work on enlarging the settlements.

The argument that a political move for achieving peace in the Middle East area is dependent on the elections in Israel and America and the outcome of such elections is a wrong dictum which lacks sound judgement in the light of international unanimity to prove quickly to establish peace in the area.

Thursday

Al Ra'i: Students can do better

SCHOOL STUDENTS from a huge human force in most countries especially those which witness a population explosion. These students could be made to form a powerful economic force for their society, leading to more progress. Unfortunately, however, in the developing nations this huge force is being left idle and continues to grow as a liability to the country's economy and the society as a whole.

In the past, school children used to study and to work, and the schools used to respond to the needs of the children and their work programmes during the summer holidays. Today, however, the students have been made to become consumers, living in a state of disguised unemployment between 12 and 20 years of age, a period in which all students are of high vitality and physical power. Separating schools from work is separating children from life and transforming education into a meaningless practice, no matter how hard educationalists try to improve the situation.

The alternative is integrating school life and work into a useful programme that can help children. The ministry of education can work out programmes for technical, cultural and social activities for the children, programmes that are adopted by municipalities, government departments, clubs, charitable societies and other organisations as is the case in advanced countries. The ministry will thus offer a better service to the young generations and the society as a whole.

Al Dustour: Lebanese should co-operate

DESPITE THE sporadic clashes in Lebanon, we can sense an atmosphere of optimism prevailing in that country at present, now that the government has succeeded in working out a security plan aiming at ending the fighting and restoring peace in Beirut and the neighbouring mountain areas.

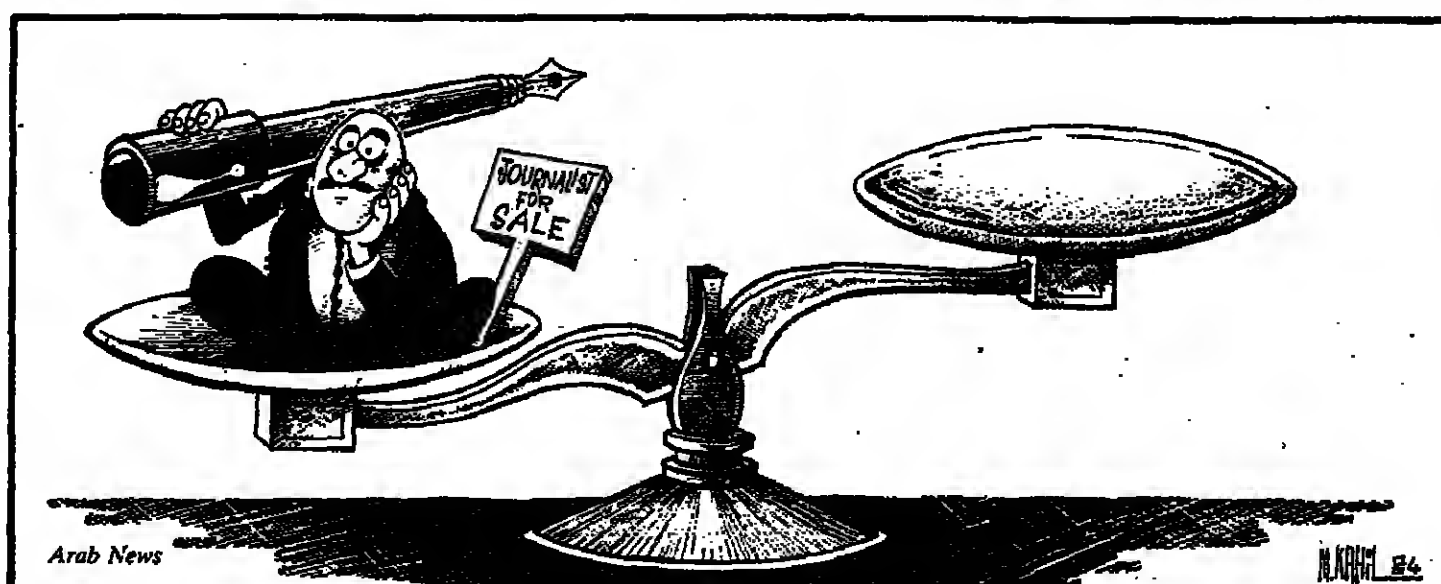
If the Lebanese people display a spirit of responsibility and co-operation with the council, the road will be open for the military to re-establish security in Lebanon. The Lebanese people should realise that this is the right opportunity for making peace; they must grab it and work towards serving the cause of their country's unity and territorial integrity. Otherwise, Lebanon will remain an arena for foreign intervention, open to destructive forces.

Sawt Al Shaab: Firm GCC stand

AS A result of continuous Iranian threats to Gulf Arab states the members of the Gulf Co-operation Council have adopted a strategy to defend their air space and shipping in the region.

Altogether, the council members can make available 300 war planes with which they can repel any aggression on their oil installations and oil tankers. This air power is far much stronger than Iran's airforce which has proved its weakness and failure in the war with Iraq. The council members are also supported by other Arab states have succeeded in foiling attempts by Iran to buy war material from the U.S. and European nations. Italy has recently cancelled a deal for the sale of warships to Iran under Arab pressure and because it realises that its interests with Arab states might suffer if the deal went through.

All this pressure by the World and the Arab countries will eventually force Iran to stop its aggressive policies against its neighbours and respond to the call of peace.



Arab News

10/10/84

When will we have an opposition in Parliament?

Talking
straight
Marwan
Muasher

EGYPT HAS a new parliament these days. 448 representatives were elected recently to the Egyptian parliament. 58 of whom are members of the opposition New Wafd Party. There is considerable disenchantment in Egypt these days. This disenchantment stems out of accusations of foul-play on part of the government in the elections, but rather from the election law itself, an absurd document forcing people to elect whole lists instead of individuals, and forbidding any party that does not get 8 per cent of the vote from being represented in the parliament.

These stringent as well as ridiculous conditions make a mockery out of democracy to say the least. And yet, I envy the Egyptians so much these days. I envy the Egyptians because out of 448 elected representatives, there are 58 clear-cut members of the opposition. Out of 448 deputies, there are 58 who will not always say "yes" to whatever the government proposes. There are 58 deputies, who, while

might not be able to pass or block any draft laws presented to parliament, will still generate enough debate as to draw public attention and keep the government on its toes. There are 58 deputies who cannot be accused of being "irresponsible" or "destructive" simply because they hold views contrary to those of the government. There are 58 deputies who were carried into parliament by votes of the people, belonging to the same nation that carried the other 390 deputies into the same parliament.

We have 60 deputies in our parliament. It is difficult to say how many can be regarded as belonging to "opposition". All these deputies supposedly ran for personal attributes or tribal affiliations as it is forbidden in Jordan to belong to a party. Our political process of governing through a parliamentary system is somehow supposed to function without ideologies, political thoughts, or political organisation. The official reason is that political parties have been a detriment in the past to the political process and to Jordan. Some say we are not

ready yet for democracy. We have the highest rate of education in the region, and yet we are not ready for democracy.

If political parties are indeed detrimental to the political process, what effect does the opposite situation have? Is the absence of political parties helpful, then?

It is interesting indeed to examine the present composition of our parliament, however difficult a task that might be for the average citizen. Let us look at the platform the deputies ran under. It is a fact that they were not allowed by law to express any clear political ideologies or platforms, which after all should be the determining factor behind which I vote for in any proper elections. It is a fact that they were not allowed by law to voice their platforms through TV, radio, or public speeches. And yet, we were supposed to elect people without having the shadiest idea of what they represent. I do not understand how Jordanians are blamed for voting according to tribal affiliations, when under such conditions, they are forbidden to

vote otherwise. What I am driving at is that because of the above, all the deputies adopted blanket slogans and platforms that were so general they could mean anything, making it very difficult for the voter to vote for or against government's policy. Thus, all the deputies supported the Palestinian cause, but did not say how and in what practical steps. All of them were for a stronger Jordan (who isn't?) but did not elaborate on specific policies they would advocate (how can they elaborate?). The result that we have today is a parliament with a rainbow of personalities and ideologies, lacking any solid organisation to render it effective. More importantly, there is no organised opposition (although an indirect opposition certainly exists) that can effectively check government's actions with obvious benefits to the whole Jordanian community.

Throughout the years, Jordan has followed a wise, moderate policy that saw it not only surviving, but thriving as well amongst a turbulent region. Does an opposition exist in our parliament? Certainly, and from more than one group. However, due to the fact that it is not formally organised, it is largely ineffective. There is, for example, a considerable number (about six or seven) of Muslim fundamentalists in the parliament, who are often at odds with the government. There is also talk of another opposition group working closely with a well-known Jordanian politician. In any case, whatever opposition exists is not a true indicator of people's aspirations, and still represents

getting-togethers of certain groups of deputies for personal or political gains more than it does a translation of people's wishes. It is time that a formal as well as representative opposition sees light in our parliament. For it to be effective, strong and beneficial, it has to come from within a multi-party system that acknowledges the right of all citizens to share in the making of their own country's policies.

The phrase "political party" is so scary to many of us. We tend to immediately give it leftist connotations. I do not understand why this is the case. What we ask for are political organisations that propose solutions to the country's problems in an organised and systematic manner, that work within the laws of the country, and that are accountable for their actions with the limits of the constitution. As such, I do not see why any party should pose any threat to us, so long as we ensure that any party, whether it be on the extreme right or the extreme left, does not

infringe upon the rights of all other parties and citizens. But to have something like 36 candidates running for one seat, when most of them hardly differ from each other is not my idea of an alternative.

Several attempts were made in other countries to "create" an opposition. This is where the government "allows" a certain group or groups, always few in number, to speak mildly against it so it shows the world it has democracy. This is not what I ask for. The issue here is not one of "allowing" an opposition, rather of the right to have an opposition, and a clearly-defined one.

I believe the absence of political parties and consequently, opposition, is more detrimental to Jordan than having both. Certainly, political parties create problems of their own. Certainly the opposition would behave irresponsibly sometimes, as I suspect governments also sometimes do. But in the simplest terms, two opinions, debated and scrutinised, most times lead to a better decision than one.

Red howler monkeys: More bark than bite

By Barbara S. Moffet

WASHINGTON — It's the middle of the night on the plains of northern Venezuela, a full moon illuminating forest and field. Suddenly, a lion-like roar.

Dr. Carolyn Crockett, asleep in a ranch house, is awakened but not alarmed. She recognises the familiar voice of the red howler monkey; a full moon often sets off its low, guttural roar.

Red howlers also purr like kittens, cluck, grunt, wail, and squeal to communicate different messages. But they're at their loudest when they roar, usually in unison at dawn to announce location, or any time they feel threatened.

Throats are enlarged

Their throats — enlarged to enhance roaring — may be the most active part of the red howler monkey, according to Dr. Crockett. "These are really laid-back monkeys," she said. "They move rather slowly and spend a great part of their day sleeping."

So subdued are they that the local people don't even consider them monkeys. "Miono," the word for other monkey species in the area, is not used in reference to red howlers. Instead, they're called "floyo" — lazy.

Lazy or not, the red howlers have kept Dr. Crockett on the move for five years. Dr. Crockett, 38, a University of Washington professor, has made a census of nearly 700 monkeys as part of her study of the population dynamics of red howler troops and the effects of two different habitats on them.

Red-orange like an orangutan, the red howler (*Alouatta seniculus*) is one of six species of howler monkey and has the loudest, deepest voice. It lives in South America, north of the Amazon River. Dr. Crockett's study subjects dwell on Hato Vlasagural, a private cattle ranch on the plains of Venezuela's state of Guarico. Giant anteaters, jaguars, ocelots, snakes, and other mammals, as well

as 250 bird species, live there unmolested by people in a 12-square-mile area protected for them.

The ranch makes an ideal field laboratory for comparing effects of different environments on a species. The howlers live in two distinct habitats — a scrubby area known as the open woodland, and a denser section of trees, the gallery forest extending along a river.

The Smithsonian Institution began a study of the open woodland howlers in 1974, and now Dr. Crockett has expanded it to the gallery forest, tracking 23 separate troops there. She trails the monkeys on foot or sits for hours watching, in the style of chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall. Unlike chimps, red howler faces have little variety, so she has come to rely on scars and variations in pigment to tell the hundreds of individuals apart. Some monkeys also have been ear-tagged.

Tree dwellers

Red howlers spend most of their time in trees, especially from May to November, when much of the ranch is flooded. When they do descend to travel, it's in a cautious, single-file style. About 60 per cent of the daytime is spent at rest, the remainder munching on figs, leaves, flowers, and other fruits. At night they head as a troop for a "sleeping tree." Generally the troop's dominant male sleeps closer to the adult females, while subordinate males choose more far-flung branches.

The troop — an average of nine monkeys — may contain only one adult male, or two, or occasionally more. Fighting for dominance is rarely seen, the scientist said. Red howlers tend more towards vocalisation than violence.

One troop under study was invaded by two males, however, providing a rare view of red howler aggression. All three males were injured in the battles for supremacy. Access to females is the main motivation for becoming top male; that male breeds with sev-



Red howler monkeys start off the day with strident howls — this time to defend their territory after confronting a neighbouring troop.

Enlarged throats contribute to the monkeys' deep loud howls. And they usually roar in unison (National Geographic photo)

eral females, perpetuating his genes. Like most red howler activities, motherhood is a fairly relaxed experience. A mother doesn't pick up her infant; she waits for it to climb onto her back, where it clings as she leaps from bough to bough.

While adults nap, young red howlers frolic, springing among the trees, squealing and biting each other in fun. Some can be mischievous. One day, as Dr. Crockett watched from below, two

adolescent howlers were playfully wrestling while hanging from branches by their prehensile tails, which can grasp like hands. A third monkey came up and unwound one of the tails, sending the monkey crashing to a branch below. It regained its grasp unharmed.

Infants slain

Some of the adults are not so winsome. The disappearance of

several infants over the last few years had led the scientist to believe that infanticide by red howler males is widespread, at an average rate of one killing in each troop every five to six years. As is true of some other mammals, the males apparently kill dependent infants so the mother will be available for mating sooner. A few males, Dr. Crockett believes, may have unwittingly killed their own offspring.

In comparisons of 50 troops, she has found populations in the

woodland to be denser, troop size larger, and troops to contain two adult males more often than the one found in gallery forest troops.

Troop sizes in the two habitats have become increasingly more equal, Dr. Crockett theorises that the forest study's start coincided with a crash in the population, possibly caused by the failure of a particular tree to fruit. This staple of red howler diet has recovered, and forest troops are thriving. — National Geographic feature.

Brazil farmworkers organise for higher pay, better conditions

By Stan Lehman
Associated Press

JABOTICABAL, Brazil — Millions of once-subservient migrant farmworkers, dominated for centuries by this country's rural elite, are fighting for higher pay and better conditions.

"Migrant workers finally have decided they're not going to be exploited any more," said Benedito Vieira de Magalhães, president of the Farmworkers Union in this fertile agricultural zone in southeastern Brazil.

Mr. Magalhães led a violent three-day strike in May in which about 10,000 sugar-cane cutters in the nearby town of Guariba won what he called "unprecedented" pay raises and fringe benefits. Threats of similar action led to better conditions for migrants in the region's orange groves and sugar plantations.

"For the first time, the workers became aware of their own strength. They finally found the courage to speak back to the plantation owners," said Mr. Magalhães, 63, a former cane cutter. "And for the first time the plantation owners felt fear — fear of the workers' anger and fear of losing their crops."

Brazil is the world's largest cane sugar and orange producer, and this area, in São Paulo state, is its principal growing zone.

There are about four million migrant farmworkers in Brazil and about 600,000 in São Paulo, according to university research. The labourers are known as "boias-frias," Portuguese slang for "cold-lunch eaters," because of the cold rice and beans they take out to the fields.

The cane cutters' strike came after growers arbitrarily increased the work load without increasing their already low pay.

During the strike, workers burned crop-storage warehouses and

cars and destroyed buildings. One person was shot to death and 34 were injured.

The strike ended when Mr. Trowers agreed to increase the worker's weekly earnings from an average of \$15 to \$45.

The agreement included free transportation and tools and overtime pay. It also allows workers to keep records of how many tons they cut each day.

Mr. Magalhães said the last item prevents a once-common practice by growers — claiming the cuts were less in order to drive down wages.

São Paulo State Labour Secretary Almir Pazzianotto said: "I am certain that if it weren't for the violence, an agreement would never have been reached. The fear factor was very important, in convincing the plantation owners to sign," Mr. Pazzianotto said.

Clovis Oliveira de Santos, 50, a sugar-cane cutter since he was 12, said before the agreement he never had enough to feed his family properly.

"All I could buy was rice and beans. Now we can eat some meat, fruit and vegetables at least once a week," Mr. Santos said.

He said fear of losing their jobs kept workers from pressing their demands earlier.

"But when I saw my family go hungry, and I started working longer hours and not getting paid for them, I decided I could no longer keep my mouth shut," said Mr. Santos.

The effects of Guariba were felt almost immediately in the orange groves surrounding the neighbouring city of Bebedouro.

There, growers quickly reached an agreement with thousands of striking orange pickers who threatened to stop production in the area's orange concentrate industries.

Brazil is the world's largest concentrate exporter.

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African nations vie for '86 World Soccer Cup places

NAIROBI (R) — The battle for African places in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico kicks off in Freetown Saturday when Sierra Leone meet Morocco.

The Moroccans, bolstered by several European-based professionals, will be favourites to win the two-leg tie and move a small step closer to the finals.

Of the 29 nations in the knockout competition, Algeria, Cameroun and Ghana received byes into the second round where Guinea joined them when their opponents, Togo, withdrew.

Algeria and Cameroun covered themselves with glory during the 1982 finals in Spain, killing any doubts in Europe and South America about the justification of having two African teams in the finals of the world's premier football event.

In their opening game, Algeria stunned former winners West Germany 2-1 and then beat Chile 3-2 after leading 3-0. A 2-0 defeat by Austria in between proved costly as they were eliminated on goal difference.

The dejected North Africans left for home protesting bitterly about what they said was a 'fix' when West Germany defeated Austria 1-0, a result that put both teams in the second round.

FIFA — the world governing body — fined the Germans and Austrians for lack of effort in a match played at walking pace, but the result stood.

The "Indomitable Lions" from Cameroun, playing an uncharacteristic defensive game, held Peru, Poland and eventual winners Italy to draws to finish third in their group.

The results confirmed the spectacular progress made by African teams since Morocco became the first African finalist 14 years ago in Mexico.

The North Africans held Bulgaria and lost narrowly to mighty West Germany in group matches. African pride suffered a setback

during the 1974 finals in West Germany when Zaire's Leopards were humiliated 9-0 by Yugoslavia. But they held Scotland to two goals and Brazil to three.

Togo's 3-1 triumph over Mexico in Argentina four years later was the first by an African side in any finals. They also held West Germany to a goalless draw and only fell 1-0 to Poland, a defeat which cost them a place in the second round.

Zaire have not entered this time for economic reasons, but with Cameroun, Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, Egypt and Morocco competing, the stage looks set for some classic battles before the two finalists emerge.

Egypt, a potent combination of the stars from national, Arab Contractors and Zamalek, will face Zimbabwe in one of the most interesting first-round ties.

Zimbabwe held Zambia to a 1-1 draw in Lusaka earlier this month and the result will encourage new national coach Peter Nyuma, who has put the accent firmly on youth and attack.

European Champions France raise sights to World Cup

PARIS (R) — For French football, 1984 will always be a memorable year, but time will tell if their European Championship triumph Wednesday night was a crowning glory or merely the coronation of a team that will rule the world.

The 2-0 victory over Spain in the final brought France the first major soccer trophy of their 80-year history and capped a tournament which had already established them as Europe's outstanding team.

Michel Platini, Europe's Footballer of the Year, scored in every match, hitting two hat-tricks in the process, and barring disasters — will lead the French challenge against the best in the world in Mexico in two years.

Yet age could undo World Cup dreams. Platini's great little midfielder Henrichman Alain Giresse, 31, is expected to step down from the international stage now the European Championship has been won and other, including Platini himself, will be over 30 when the World Cup finals unfold.

The team itself will be in different hands, with Michel Hidalgo — the sensitive architect of their successes — handing over to Henri Michel, long a member of the national side. "His life will be exceptional, as mine has been for eight and a half years. I have lived a passionate adventure," Hidalgo said Thursday.

Several members of Hidalgo's team may also be near the end of their adventure with 'the Blues' — defenders Patrick Battiston and Maxime Bossis, forwards Bernard Lacombe, Didier Six and Dominique Rocheteau, as well as Platini himself, have already contested two World Cup final series.

But Hidalgo, who introduced gradual changes over the years, feels confident for the future. "From this squad we had the sight of Bruno Bellone scoring the second goal, and there's also Jean-Marc Ferreri and Daniel Bravo, although they didn't play much in the tournament," he said.

France, under Michel's guidance, have also qualified for the Olympic final series in Los Angeles and the national youth team reached the quarter-finals of their European Championship.

Bellone, who netted in injury time, was the only out-and-out striker to score in France's tally of 14 tournament goals, the rest coming from midfielders Platini (nine), Giresse and Luis Fernandez and defender Jean-Francois Domergue, two-goal hero of the semifinal against Portugal.

Hidalgo said the new European Champions were a more skilful and mentally tougher side than previous French teams. "On the mental level, today's French team can fight, resist and believe in victory to the end," he said.

Hidalgo, who will stay on with the national federation as technical director, singled out tenacious Jean Tigana, 29 last Saturday, for his fighting qualities and his ability to provide the crucial telling pass.

It was Tigana who laid on Bellone's goal Wednesday night and who battled on to supply the pass for Platini's last-gasp winner against Portugal in the semifinal when everyone else was willing in extra-time.

"When Jordao had just given Portugal the lead, Jean Tigana went to get the ball out of the back of the French net and ran back to the centre of the pitch, showing his combative spirit, his revolt and refusal to accept defeat. What an example," he said.

Pele, the sublime Brazilian footballer, said that in the championship Tigana was "the player who surprised me most."

The brilliance of Platini, the spirit of enterprise and imagination imbued by Hidalgo and the commitment exhibited by Tigana and team-mates of the stamp of fellow midfielder Luis Fernandez give France every reason for hope in the run-up to the World Cup.

Australians strike again in Wimbledon tennis

LONDON (R) — Australian muscle power was again in evidence Friday as burly Mark Edmondson reminded Sweden they do not yet have a successor to five-time champion Bjorn Borg.

The hulking Edmondson, one of the heaviest men in the game, won the deciding set of his two-day second round marathon against ninth-seeded Henrik Sundstrom for a 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 6-7, 8-6 triumph which ended the hopes of all Sweden's three seeds.

Edmondson's victory came the day after Davis Cup teammate Pat Cash had cut down fourth-seeded Mats Wilander. The other Swedish seed, number 10 Anders Jarryd, lost in the first round to American Scott Davis.

There was more glory for Australia in the women's singles, where 21-year-old Elizabeth Sayers ousted 10th-seeded American Lisa Bonder 6-4, 6-2 and there was a second women's upset when Britain's Anne Hobbs beat 16-seeded Carling Bassett of Canada 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

Top seed Martina Navratilova had a 6-2, 6-2 win over Ida Budarova, who comes from her native country of Czechoslovakia, but second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd needed three sets before disposing

of fellow American Betsy Nagelsen 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

In Vienna Ivan Lendl was Friday named in the Czechoslovak team for next month's Davis Cup tennis quarter-final tie against France, ending a year-long suspension imposed by his national sporting authorities.

Lendl, winner of this year's French Open and second seed at Wimbledon, was suspended in 1978, fined in July last year for playing an exhibition match in Sun City, Bophuthatswana, one of the black 'homelands' established by South Africa.

Like other Soviet bloc states, Czechoslovakia has cut sporting links with South Africa because of its apartheid policy.

Lendl was also put on the blacklist of the United Nations committee against apartheid.

In March the committee removed Lendl from its blacklist after hearing from the Czechoslovak charge d'affaires at the United Nations that Lendl had been misinformed by the tournament organisers in South Africa.

Lendl had expressed his 'profound regret' and accepted the financial penalties, the charge d'affaires said.

Arab American Cultural Athletic Committee formed

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — The members of the Arab American community in the greater Los Angeles area recently joined together and formed the "Arab American Cultural Athletic Committee" (AACAC) mainly to co-ordinate a variety of events and services during next month's Los Angeles Olympics, announced Dr. Sahri El-Farra, chairman of the committee.

The AACAC has three major purposes: 1) To introduce the Arab culture and heritage to the people who will be in Los Angeles for the Olympic Games; 2) To act as host group for Arab athletes and visitors providing assistance in various areas; 3) To provide a structure for the Arab American community to participate along with other athletic groups, during this historic event.

The following subcommittees were formed: Arabic art exhibit, film festival, fashion show, Arabic folkloric dance, music, travel and accommodations, hospitality, receptions, public relations, finance, translating, administration, medical, legal, liaison, security, trade and grand banquet and ethnic inter relations.

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Secreto becomes most valuable racing horse

LONDON (R) — Secreto, winner of England's Epsom Derby classic earlier this month, has become the most valuable horse ever sold while still racing, it was announced Friday.

The Calumet Farm stables in Lexington, Kentucky, has bought a half share in the three-year-old for an undisclosed price. Secreto's owner, Venezuelan Luigi Miglietti, said in a statement.

"The terms of the sale are private, but the price paid for Secreto makes him the most valuable horse sold while still racing, prior to retiring to stud," Miglietti said.

A spokesman for the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association said American horse Devil's Bag fetched the previous record when it was syndicated for \$36 million as a two-year-old.

Calumet Farm President J.T.

Lundys said Secreto, who has been pulled out of Saturday's Irish Sweepstakes Derby at the Curragh, will continue to race throughout the 1984 season in Europe and will be entered in the Breeders' Cup series in November in the United States.

David O'Brien will continue as Secreto's trainer and will prepare him for the races in the U.S. where he will run in the names of Miglietti and Calumet Farm. After his racing career, Secreto will stand stud at Calumet Farm.

Secreto's next race is likely to be in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot, England, next month.

Rummenigge backs Beckenbauer

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — West German soccer captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said Friday Franz Beckenbauer was the right choice to take over the national team after their disappointing show in the European Soccer Championships.

Rummenigge dismissed criticism that Beckenbauer, 39, the most capped West German player of all time, lacks the necessary experience for the job.

Rummenigge said: "He has trained under and learned from many excellent trainers. He has the necessary experience now. He is the right man."

Beckenbauer cannot be appointed trainer because he does not have the necessary coaching diploma but he is to take charge under the title of technical director, working with a qualified coach.

Rummenigge said the resignation earlier this week of Jupp Derwall as trainer was inevitable. "Derwall and I spoke about it in France. We came to the conclusion we could not go on the way we were," he said.

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"Indian Film"
2- FUNNY KUN FU
"Karate"
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30

Top Punjab officials quit

NEW DELHI (R) — The governor of India's troubled Punjab state and the region's police chief resigned Friday, a government spokesman said.

The spokesman told reporters Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had accepted the resignations of Governor Bhairab Dutt Pandey and Punjab Inspector General of Police Pritam Singh Bhinder.

Authoritative government sources said Mr. Pandey's resignation was linked to the publication in the next few days of a government report criticising his administration for failing to control a violent Sikh campaign for religious and political concessions in the state.

Mr. Pandey, one of India's most highly-regarded civil servants, was appointed governor of Punjab in October when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi took direct control of the state by imposing presidential rule.

The Press Trust of India (PTI), which also reported Mr. Pandey's resignation, said his administration had been criticised for not knowing that huge stockpiles of weapons had been hidden in the Sikh's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, and other places of worship.

Indian army troops, who stormed the Golden Temple and other Sikh shrines on June 9, were surprised at the strength of the resistance they encountered.

About 1,000 Sikh extremists and 90 soldiers died in the fighting, and since then about 5,000 suspected extremists have been rounded up.

The sources said a major cause of the Punjab administration, including police and intelligence officials, would take place in the near future.

They said top bureaucrats and police from outside Punjab would be brought in to run the state.

The army was likely to remain in Punjab, possibly for another three months, to allow the new administration to find its feet, the sources said.

8 troops killed

In India's Northeastern border state of Tripura guerrillas have killed eight para-military soldiers and wounded seven in the biggest action yet of their campaign for independence, police said Friday.

About 30 guerrillas ambushed a para-military patrol in thick jungle around midday Thursday, catching the troops in a withering crossfire from three sides.

Police said the ambush seemed a clear show of strength in answer to the appointment earlier this month of a former army chief of

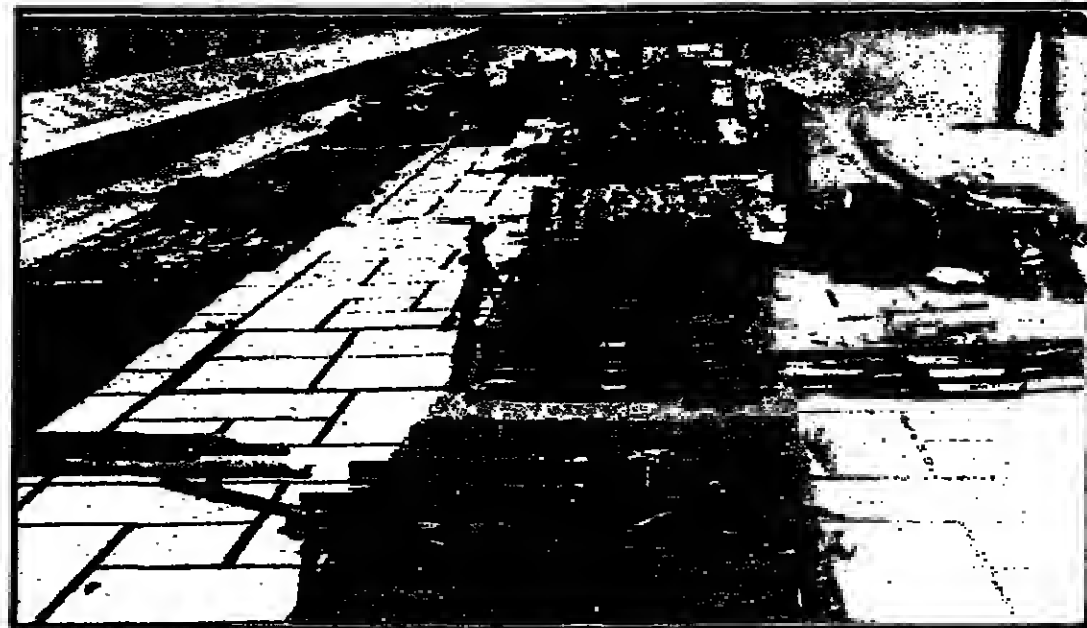
staff as governor of Tripura and two other states along the borders of Bangladesh, Burma and China. The two other states, Manipur and Nagaland, have also been hit by an escalating guerrilla campaign for independence.

"This ambush was the biggest extremist operation in Tripura and caused the most casualties," a police spokesman told reporters.

Police suspect the patrol was tricked into entering the ambush near the town of Belonia in southern Tripura. It lost contact with its headquarters for several hours before re-inforcements arrived to rescue wounded.

The same guerrillas had raided a number of villages in the region over the past few weeks, burning houses and wounding at least two people.

But in a break with past strategy they remained in the area instead of retreating after each raid to jungle hideouts along the border.



Light machine guns, sten-machine guns, rifles, anti-personnel mines, ammunition and explosives recovered from the extremists in the Golden Temple area.

Moscow carries out missile tests

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet forces carried out special tests with ground-to-air missiles this week in the Central Asian military region, the army daily Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) reported Friday.

It said the firings had been a "special tactical exercise" in which the missile launchers were staffed by smaller crews than usual and had been held in "tense conditions".

This appeared to indicate that military chiefs had been uncertain at the start whether the exercise would be a success. Western military experts said.

The newspaper said the tests had gone well and the crews successfully shot down "airborne intruders". It did not make clear whether these were missiles or planes.

In a further indication of the importance of the exercise, the daily said it had been observed by regional army chief Yuri Maksimov, commander of the Turkestan Military District which borders Iran and Afghanistan.

Western military experts said the tests may have been trying out new launchers which required fewer crewmen.

Blast kills one person in Colombo luxury hotel

COLOMBO (R) — A powerful bomb was found Thursday in the building which houses Sri Lanka's National Security Ministry just 25 minutes before an explosion rocked a luxury hotel killing one person, a government spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman, Douglas Liyanage, said the device, which he described as "an unusually large bomb" could have caused the collapse of part of the 14-story building had it gone off.

He said the bomb was found two floors below the office of the National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali in the National Insurance Corporation building in Colombo.

Mr. Liyanage told reporters he did not think the bomb was aimed at the minister as he had left for New Delhi the previous day.

Mr. Athulathmudali is now in the Indian capital for discussions in preparation for Sri Lankan President Jayewardene's visit to India which starts Saturday.

The bomb had been timed to go off about one hour after the blast at the Oberoi Hotel about 1.5 kilometres away which killed a woman employee of the hotel.

Mr. Liyanage said the fact that two large bombs had been placed in two places in Colombo to go off within one hour of each other "might not have been coincidental".

He said: "Investigators have come to no conclusion about who were responsible for this or their motives. They are still weighing the evidence."

The spokesman said government institutions were now considering taking extra security measures.

Meanwhile, security was tightened Friday at tourist hotels following the explosion which rocked Oberoi Hotel.

The government has directed hotels to assist that foreign guests show their passports. Hotels have also been asked to check the national identity cards of Sri Lankans who check in.

The police were Friday looking for a Sri Lankan couple who had occupied the room in Hotel Oberoi in which the explosion occurred.

Police said the couple, registered as Mr. and Mrs. John Sebastian, had checked in at the hotel on Wednesday making a cash deposit of 5,000 rupees (\$200).

The couple, who had told the hotel staff they were on their honeymoon, had left the hotel Thursday morning without checking out and did not return. The bomb went off in the room about four hours later.

Police said the couple, aged between 25 and 30 years, had given a bogus address.

Star wars defence may require 1972 pact change

WASHINGTON (R) — Senior U.S. Defence Department officials said Thursday that President Reagan's "star wars" missile defence programme might eventually require alterations to the 1972 U.S.-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty.

But they said the programme begun by Mr. Reagan in March 1983 to design lasers and other technology to destroy incoming Soviet missiles did not at present violate the 1972 treaty limiting deployment of ballistic missile defences.

Fred Ikle, undersecretary of defence for policy, told reporters the strategic defence initiative, popularly known as star wars, would not come into possible conflict with the ABM treaty for several years.

At that time, he said, "there will be a decision that can be carefully weighed. There is a lot of time to explore the future of mutual U.S.-Soviet systems for preventing nuclear war."

Mr. Ikle was backed by Brig.

Gen. Robert Rankine, acting deputy director of the stars wars programme, who said the effort was designed so that an arms control decision could be made in the early 1990s.

Some critics have charged that the programme would violate the ABM treaty, which restricts the U.S. and the Soviet Union to one limited protective system each.

Mr. Ikle rejected proposals for talks with the Soviet Union to try to curb space-based ABMs and other space weapons.

"That assumes it (a space defence) is bad. We don't share this view," he said.

U.S. officials have said a ballistic missile defence programme could eliminate the threat from offensive missiles.

Mr. Reagan has raised the possibility of sharing U.S. star wars technology with the Soviet Union as a spur to eliminating all offensive weapons.

The Pentagon says the programme will cost about \$26 billion over the next five years.

Pope defends Roman Catholic rights to separate education

VATICAN CITY — Roman Catholics should not suffer undue economic pressure in exercising their basic right to separate education, Pope John Paul said Thursday in a vigorous defence of Catholic schools against government interference.

He exhorted senior cardinals and churchmen of the Roman Curia, the central government of the Roman Catholic Church, to spare no effort to keep intact the present structure of Catholic education.

"The church has the right to have its own schools," the Pope said in his annual speech to members of the Curia in St. Peter's Basilica. "The church... demands liberty and equal treatment for the Catholic schools."

The theme of education dominated the Pope's remarks, reflecting his concern that recent developments in Italy, France and Malta could threaten either the independence of Roman Catholic schools or Catholic instruction in state schools.

He said the Catholic family must be allowed freedom of educational choice "without any discrimination on the part of public

authorities... and must not be hindered by undue economic burdens."

The French government has announced plans to integrate public with private schools. 90 per cent of which are Catholic. In Malta, church and state are in conflict over government insistence that Catholic schools provide free education.

Italy, earlier this year signed a Concordat with the Vatican, ending Catholicism's status as the state religion and making religious school education optional rather than compulsory.

The Pope insisted on the Roman Catholic Church's historic right and duty to teach, admitting that bishops in various countries had met difficulties over "the Christian education of youth, which is going through a delicate phase in recent years."

He said the church must not be hindered from carrying out its duty, "one which enters into the general orbit of religious liberty."

The aim of Catholic schools was not to present their own version of scientific and technical teaching, but to teach the truth about man, his nature and history, in the light of faith.

Opposition backs Duarte's efforts with guerrillas

WASHINGTON (R) — Salvadoran right-wing leader Roberto D'Aubuisson said Thursday he would head what he termed a constructive opposition and support President Jose Napoleon Duarte's efforts to bring leftist rebels into the country's official fold.

He told a news conference here he supported Mr. Duarte's efforts to win guerrilla participation in El Salvador's next elections.

He said it would be positive and acceptable if Mr. Duarte intended to have guerrillas present candidates for assembly elections and town mayors.

But Mr. D'Aubuisson made clear he would not allow Mr. Duarte's government "to compromise or negotiate with rebels a share of power... because that goes against the grain of democracy."

Mr. D'Aubuisson, who has been largely shunned by U.S. officials during his visit, told reporters his right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) Party had become a "constructive and conscientious" opposition.

Mr. D'Aubuisson went to Congress Wednesday to answer senators' questions about his alleged links with rightist death squads.

He denied the charges which Republican Senator Jesse Helms, a D'Aubuisson supporter, dismissed as "outrageous."

Mr. D'Aubuisson, who has denied press reports that he was involved in a plot to kill the U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, Thomas Pickens, Thursday called the envoy a capable official who had "accomplished his mission in El Salvador."

Asked about alleged channelling of funds by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) — to help Mr. Duarte's Christian Democrats in last May's elections, Mr. D'Aubuisson said U.S. Presidential Envoy Vernon Walters had told him Washington did not know where the money came from.

Without linking the funds to his opponents, Mr. D'Aubuisson said it was "common knowledge" in El Salvador that the CIA and the U.S. embassy were channelling funds through a Venezuelan educational organisation.

Mr. D'Aubuisson challenged U.S. legislators who have accused him of leading El Salvador's death squads to produce evidence.

"Otherwise it is nothing but speculation," he said.

Pravda disappointed with Democratic programme

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet daily Pravda Thursday voiced disappointment with a draft election programme drawn up by the U.S. Democratic Party and said it was likely to hand votes to President Reagan.

"Inconsistencies and half measures in their manifesto on questions of foreign and domestic policy are playing right into the hands of the present incumbent of the White House," the Communist Party daily said in a commentary.

The Democrats had failed to offer a "precise and clear alternative to the policies of Reagan" and this was bound to cost

them votes in the November election, it added.

Pravda complained chiefly about the sections of the programme dealing with East-West issues and arms control and said supporters of détente in the party had been overruled by those who took a similar "militaristic" line to Mr. Reagan.

The commentary indicated Kremlin disappointment that the programme did not commit a Democratic administration to a much more conciliatory line towards Moscow than that of Mr. Reagan.

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BY CHARLES GOREN

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West North East South
Pass Pass 1♥ 1♠
2♥ 3♠ Pass 3♠
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠.

Lynn Deas of Schenectady, N.Y., and Beth Palmer, Silver Spring, Md., won the Life Master Woman's Pairs Championship at the recent Fall North American tournament. Accurate defense on this board gave them a top score and helped them on their way to the title.

Note South's decision to overcall one spade. With unguarded honors in the rounded suits (hearts and clubs), she did not feel that her hand merited a takeout

double, followed by a spade bid should partner respond in clubs.

West led a club, and declarer rose with the ace, sacrificing her king, to obtain an entry to the table. The ten of diamonds was covered by

the king and taken by the ace, and declarer adopted less than the best line when she elected to continue with the queen and jack of diamonds.

East ruffed the third diamond, cashed the ace-king of hearts, then reverted to a club. Declarer ruffed, and tried to ruff a diamond on the board with the nine of trumps. East overruffed with the jack and continued with clubs. Declarer ruffed with the king.

Those of you who believe that acea were made to capture kings would overruff for down one. But the ace of trumps is sure to take a trick, and West had been watching the spots. She realized that, if she refused to overruff, she would be guaranteed a second trump trick. So she simply stuffed a diamond and sat back to wait for two trump tricks. Down two was worth all the matchpoints.

120 die in battle for El Salvador power plant

CERRON GRANDE DAM. El Salvador (R) — Sixty government troops and 60 guerrillas died in a 10-hour battle for El Salvador's biggest hydro-electric power plant, President Jose Napoleon Duarte said Thursday night.

About 1,000 leftist guerrillas seized the Cerron Grande Plant, which generates about half the country's electricity, early Thursday morning. They retreated into the hills about 75 kilometres northeast of San Salvador after a day of bitter fighting against government forces.

Mr. Duarte, who flew by helicopter with senior military officials to inspect the dam two hours after it was recaptured, said scores of troops were wounded in the battle.

The bodies of 17 soldiers found around the plant were piled in a heap on the helicopter landing pad when the presidential entourage touched down.

Guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front

(FMLN) attacked the plant three days after telling U.S. presidential contender Jesse Jackson they were ready to talk to the Duarte government on ending El Salvador's nearly five-year-old civil war.

On Thursday night, a caller identifying himself as FMLN guerrilla Chief Samuel Samayoa told a radio station in San Salvador the dam attack was the start of a new guerrilla military campaign.

Mr. Duarte said the raid was aimed at undermining his fledgling administration and told Reuters:

"The truth is that a sincere dialogue is not what they are interested in but rather power through violence and terror as you can see here."

The President of the State Electric Company, Jaime Abdul Gutiérrez, said the plant would not be fully operational for at least a month because of damage to a small substation next to the dam.

Japan ponders new whale cutback

TOKYO (R) — Japan, a major whaling nation, is pondering how to react to the cutback in 1985 whale catch quotas ordered by the International Whaling Commission (IWC), a government spokesman said Thursday.

Japan walked out of the IWC meeting in Buenos Aires last week when the commission decreed a catch quota of only 4,224 next year for Southern Minke whales, mainstay of modern commercial whaling. This year's quota is 6,655 whales.

Japan formally objected to the IWC decision at the time. But a spokesman for Japan's fishing

agency said no decision had yet been taken on whether or not to comply with the decision.

Under IWC rules, a member nation has 90 days in which to notify the commission that it does not accept a ruling. If it does so that nation is free to ignore the decision.

A rejection of the new quota would bring Japan into commercial conflict with the United States as non-compliance would obligate Washington by law to adopt sanctions limiting Japanese fishing catches in U.S. territorial waters.

The Soviet Union, another major whaling nation, also ob-

jected to the IWC decision.

Both countries are concerned about an earlier IWC ruling which called for a complete moratorium on commercial whaling from 1986.

"At this stage we cannot say what Japan will do," the government spokesman said.

Japan's chief delegate to the IWC meeting, Kunio Yonezawa, said on returning to Tokyo Wednesday the United States had suggested holding a meeting of countries concerned with the problem.

If such a meeting was held Japan would attend it, the fisheries agency spokesman said.

Brazil withdraws direct election amendment

BRASILIA (R) — The Brazilian government Thursday withdrew a proposal to allow direct presidential elections from 1988 after failing to reach agreement with its parliamentary opposition over the issue.

The opposition had sought to use the proposed debate to press for an immediate change, allowing direct voting this year to choose President Joao Figueiredo's successor.

Under present rules, the next president will be chosen by an electoral college dominated by the ruling Social Democratic Party (PDS).

Gen. Figueiredo, who is due to step down in March next year, said in a message to Congress that he regretted not having been able to find a solution to the problem of his succession.

After a series of meetings Wed-

nesday with opposition leaders, the PDS leader in the House of Deputies Nelson Marchezan told journalists if agreement was not reached before the vote scheduled for Thursday the amendment would be withdrawn.

The opposition had planned through their command of a simple majority in the 479-seat House to amend the government proposal before any constitutional change was voted on. A two-thirds majority is needed to change the constitution.

The governor of Minas Gerais state, Tancredino Neves, tipped as a likely opposition presidential candidate, said earlier that if the government withdrew its proposed constitutional amendment it would only unify the four opposition parties around one candidate for the January electoral college elections.

Astronauts disappointed by launch failure

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Astronauts on the U.S. space shuttle Discovery were disappointed but not concerned for their safety when the ship's main engines shut down seconds before launch. Mission Commander Henry Hartsfield said Thursday.

Hartsfield, 50, who was piloting the earth aboard the shuttle Columbia exactly two years ago, said his five first-flight crewmates remained calm and joked after last Tuesday's failure.

"No one on the crew had any real concern," said Hartsfield, whose team included a woman and a passenger from private industry. "The ground crew kept us informed. They had everything under control."

Asked for his first reaction to the abrupt engine shutdown, Hartsfield said: "I think I used an 'exp-

losive deleted" and then said "hey, gang, we aren't going anywhere."

It was the second day in a row that the new spacecraft had failed to take off on its maiden flight. A computer problem kept it on the ground it on Monday.

Discovery was four seconds from take-off when an apparent fuel valve failure caused its main engines to shut down after they had been ordered to fire.

Hartsfield said the sudden shutdown showed that "the system worked exactly like it was supposed to. It worked beautifully and gave us confidence."

The mission commander, who was the pilot for the fourth shuttle mission in June 1982, said: "The biggest emotion among the crew was extreme disappointment after

two aborts in a row."

He said no decision had been made about when the \$1.5 billion spacecraft, the third of four planned shuttle orbiters, would be allowed to try again to get off the ground.

A Kennedy Space Centre spokesman said a decision about a new launch date would not be made until officials fully understood what caused the engine shutdown so close to blast-off.

Crews were Thursday taking the aft, sections of the Discovery apart in order to remove the suspect valve for analysis.

Officials said they were unsure whether the valve malfunctioned or failed to operate because it did not receive the proper signal from a computer.

COLUMN

Juan Carlos, Pope discuss football

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul received Spain's King Juan Carlos and his family in private audience Thursday, exchanging remarks with him about the European soccer final which France beat Spain 2-0. The audience in the Pope's library included Queen Sofia, Princess Elena and Cristina and the Queen's Sister, Princess Irene of Greece. As the pontiff lined up with his guests for photographs he turned to the king and asked about Wednesday night's European championship final in Paris between France and Spain. "Unfortunately we lost," King Juan Carlos said.

Jehovah's witnesses arrested in Ankara

ANKARA (R) — Eleven Turkish Jehovah's Witnesses have been arrested in Ankara and are being held pending an expected court case against them, spokesmen for the Christian sect told Reuters Thursday. They said the 11 members of a Turkish Jehovah's Witnesses Community numbering around 1,000, were detained on June 16 and were likely to face charges of using religion to further political aims. The Jehovah's Witnesses have a legally established meeting place in Ankara, but have had frequent court battles over their status since the sect was first established in Turkey in the late 1920s.

Guardian Angels' to protect Olympic visitors

LOS ANGELES (R) — A volunteer group called the Guardian Angels will help protect tourists at the Olympic Games, a spokesman for the organization said. John McKim said about 1,000 Guardian Angels would patrol Los Angeles' Olympic sites and tourist areas where, he said, unless protection is available, "tourists are going to be eaten alive" by criminals. The Guardian Angels, who wear red berets and white T-shirts, were formed in New York in 1979 to patrol the New York underground railway. The group now has branches across the country and in Canada and claims nearly 5,000 members.

Boy George mobbed in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — British pop singer Boy George was mobbed here Friday by hundreds of adoring fans, many dressed like their hero in look-alike theatrical style. Boy George, with shoulder length hair tied in a silver scarf, was asked whether he thought he would be greeted in the same way by all Australians, noted for their ruggedness. "I don't think men should go round drinking beer and acting as heymen," he replied. An Australian, flanked here last month for punching another British male pop star, Marilyn, who also dresses up as a woman, received hundreds of letters of support and job offers. But Boy George, who arrived in Sydney at the start of his Australian tour after visiting Japan, told reporters: "I like the Japanese idea that men can be as beautiful as women."

Mexico City called most polluted area

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico City centre is the most polluted area in the world, according to resident organisation studies. The city's main square, the Zocalo, is described as uninhabitable, with nearly one million cars and five million people passing through it daily. The studies recommend closing the city centre to traffic, according to local press reports.

Man kills 6 in Dallas nightclub

DALLAS (R) — A man open fire with a pistol in a plush Dallas nightclub early Friday, killing people and critically wounding another, police reported. Five said they arrested 39-year-old Abdel Krim Belachheb in Dallas shortly after the shooting. He said the gunman pulled out a .44 Smith & Wesson handgun and began shooting, killing his date partner. Three other women were shot as the man sprang his shots around the room. Police could give no motive for the slaying.